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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we are grateful for life and all of its gifts. Thank You for the beauty of the Earth, for the majesty of the skies, and for the wonder of Your love and grace.

Draw near to our lawmakers as they seek to see You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly each day. Lord, let the light of Your understanding illuminate the path they travel. Teach them to trust Your precepts and to obey Your commands, permitting You to guide them with Your wisdom and might. When this day is done, may they look back with the realization that they have been loving and kind, generous and faithful, joyful and good.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOLD STAR FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 1370 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1370) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1370) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:
S. 1370

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act".

SEC. 2. CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS TREATED AS EARNED INCOME FOR KIDDIE TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(g)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFITS.—For purposes of this subsection, any benefit under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs which—

"(i) is received by a child by reason of the child being the survivor of a deceased member of the Armed Forces or of a deceased veteran, and

"(ii) is included in the gross income of such child,

shall be considered earned income of such child."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the papers be held at the desk; that if the House passes a bill identical to the text of S. 1370 just passed by the Senate, the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; finally, that upon passage of the House bill, S. 1370 be indefinitely postponed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week presents us with more opportunities to make progress on the backlog of qualified nominees who are still awaiting Senate confirmation.

We began yesterday by voting to advance an exceptionally well-qualified nominee to the Federal judiciary. Daniel P. Collins of California was chosen by President Trump to be U.S. circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit, and the reasons why are abundantly clear.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mr. Collins is a graduate of Harvard and of Stanford Law School. He has held clerkships on both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Scalia. He served at the Department of Justice as Associate Deputy Attorney General and as Attorney-Advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel. He spent 4 years as an assistant U.S. attorney. He has complemented that experience with more than 20 years of well-regarded work in private practice.

Mr. Collins has developed a reputation for legal excellence. The American Bar Association rates him well qualified for this new post. Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee reported him favorably here to the floor.

I hope my colleagues will join me as we vote later today to confirm this fine nominee.

Following the Collins nomination, we will consider four more nominations to district courts around our Nation: Howard Nielson of Utah, Stephen Clark of Missouri, Carl Nichols of the District of Columbia, and Kenneth Bell of North Carolina. Each has been tapped by the President to fill important vacancies. Collectively, they represent decades of experience in private practice and decades more in public service, and they come before us with the high esteem of their legal peers.

Take the case of Mr. Nielson, whose nomination we will consider first. Former circuit judge Mike Luttig, for whom he served as law clerk, said: "Howard Nielson may well be the single most qualified person to serve on the federal bench that I have ever had the privilege to know."

It would be hard to come up with a more unequivocal endorsement, so I hope each of my colleagues will join me in support of Mr. Nielson, along with each of the nominees who will follow him this week.

I have noticed that a few of my colleagues across the aisle have expressed some displeasure that the Senate has recently been spending some time on nominations. I would remind our friends on the other side that not so long ago, thoroughly qualified district judge nominees were the kinds of nominations that would sail through the Senate floor by voice vote and in big groups.

Since this particular President was inaugurated in 2017, this Democratic minority has largely taken a different view. They have chosen to deploy an unprecedented level of systematic, across-the-board delaying tactics. The effect has been the need for cloture votes and individual consideration for all kinds of uncontroversial nominations, where it hadn't been a tradition in the Senate in the past. So more than 2 years into this consideration, we are left with too many vacancies still unfulfilled and a backlog of qualified nominees who need considering.

Confirming unobjectionable individuals continues to take more of the Senate's time than it should, but this ob-

struction is not going to deter us. We will be here as long as it takes. We will keep confirming highly qualified nominees to the Federal bench. We will keep putting the President's team in place and giving Americans the government they actually voted for.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, as I have discussed many times on the floor, powerful natural disasters have devastated communities across America. Many are still in need of aid as they struggle to rebuild.

My colleagues know all too well the destruction that was brought to States across the Southeast, the gulf coast, and Puerto Rico by a bad hurricane season: tens of billions of dollars in damage to buildings and infrastructure and thousands of people left without shelter or access to clean water and electricity.

We remember the record wildfires that swept across our western regions, the tornadoes that tore through the Deep South, and the rampant flooding that sunk entire communities across the Midwest and affected many of my fellow Kentuckians as well.

We have seen the pain caused by nature's worst. Now it is time for Congress to finally—finally—demonstrate our commitment to America's best. It is time to deliver supplemental resources for the rebuilding efforts that, in many cases, have been inching—just inching—along for months. It is well past time to show the relief workers, the volunteers, and the families still picking up the pieces that we have their backs.

In recent days, important progress has been made to deliver on this overdue commitment. Chairman SHELBY, Ranking Member LEAHY, our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and their counterparts over in the House are continuing their hard work to reach a bipartisan solution that meets the most pressing needs of all of these affected communities. That includes promising steps toward bipartisan agreement to deliver critical resources to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis at our southern border. The status quo is completely—completely—dysfunctional, so I am glad the agreement seems to be converging on more resources.

I expect to discuss our progress in greater detail as the week unfolds, but it is my sincere hope that in both parties and in both Chambers we will finally—finally—be able to reach a meaningful consensus that can become law and deliver on the priorities of communities that are in need all across our country.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the last year, women's reproductive rights have come under a new level of assault. From Alabama to Missouri, to Texas, to Georgia, and beyond, over 300 new restrictions have been proposed in 39 States—bans on abortion as early as 6 weeks, so-called heartbeat bills, arbitrary waiting periods, and restrictions on clinics so severe that they force any center that performs an abortion to close down, leaving a few of our States with no more than a single clinic.

Ten such bills have now passed into law. These restrictions fly in the face of public opinion. The vast majority of the American public don't want to see Roe overturned or a woman's right to choose curtailed so severely as to render it meaningless.

I understand why many of my colleagues here in the Senate don't want to associate themselves with these extreme anti-abortion laws. Some of them have even publicly opposed the law passed by Alabama's Republicans, including the House Republican leader and the President. But let's face it. There is a sleight of hand going on here, because while many of my colleagues don't support these policies out loud, they are, at the same time, confirming judges to the Federal bench with horrendous records on women's rights, many of whom hold extreme views on Roe. These judges, in many ways, have just as much power as State legislatures to restrict a woman's right to choose and limit access to contraceptives through the courts.

Just look at some of the judges the Republican Senate has approved in the past 2 years with almost unanimous support on the Republican side. Look at Leonard Steven Grasz, who wrote about the "moral bankruptcy that's the legacy of Roe v. Wade."

What about Amy Coney Barrett? She said Roe v. Wade had been "erroneously decided" and called the ACA's birth control provisions "an assault on religious liberty." A lot of these judges are not just against abortion. They are against contraception. She is on the bench for life. Amy Coney Barrett, who said that, is on the bench for life and on President Trump's short list for the Supreme Court.

Let's not forget Justice Kavanaugh, who refused to affirm that Roe was settled law and now sits on the one body with the power to overturn it.

Just last week, Republicans confirmed Wendy Vitter, who said Planned

Parenthood kills 150,000 a year and once pushed the idea that contraceptives cause cancer.

We have more coming down the pipeline. Soon the Senate may consider the nomination of Stephen Clark, who belonged to an organization called Lawyers for Life. He once compared *Roe v. Wade* to the *Dred Scott* case.

So Republicans are playing a cynical long game here. They refuse to comment on the anti-abortion bills but are content to install anti-choice judges across the Federal bench who will uphold many of these very same laws. It is hypocritical. It is sort of like that old routine. They are saying: No, no, no, I am not for these laws. Judges, approve them. I am supporting judges who approve them.

It is not fair, it is not right, it is cynical, and the American people are going to get wise to it. We are watching the endgame of a long and concerted campaign by the far right to erode a woman's right to choose through the courts. From the moment that *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, the most extreme elements of the Republican Party have plotted its demise.

The Federalist Society was founded with the intent of cultivating a generation of judges loyal to conservative causes. Its founder, Leonard Leo, was, above all, an anti-choice advocate—some would say, even further, a fanatic. Now that they have a Republican President and a Republican Senate, the Federalist Society can push judge after judge after judge onto the bench with barely a delay and with barely a discussion, where they will have the power to severely curtail a woman's right to choose.

My Republican friends who profess opposition or indifference to these extreme anti-abortion bills while voting for hard-right, anti-*Roe* judges are engaging in subterfuge, if not hypocrisy.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, there is a topic I have discussed before—the administration's moves to block access to telecommunications equipment to China's state-controlled and state-backed firms, like Huawei. I firmly back these measures. Our defense, law enforcement, and intelligence officials have publicly testified that Huawei and other Chinese telecom companies pose a national threat to the security of the United States. Their technology could allow China to spy on Americans, steal their data, and otherwise conduct espionage.

Also, there is another point. China has taken advantage of us. There is a huge consensus now in America that that has happened. We didn't have that consensus even 5 years ago, but whether it is business or labor, average American citizens, Democrats, or Republicans, everyone agrees that China takes advantage, and one of the main ways they take advantage is they don't let our companies that have top-line

products sell them in China, except under restrictions that make it almost impossible for them to do it. Our major tech companies are excluded from China, but China, at the same time, can sell anything it wants here.

"Reciprocity" should be our watch word. If Google or Facebook or any of our other companies can't sell in China, their top companies shouldn't sell here until they let us in. That is what has happened with Huawei, in addition to the national security concerns, and it makes sense.

So I say to the Commerce Department: Stay strong.

We are now talking about some 90-day delay. I hope this is not a prelude to what we did with ZTE, when we stood tough at the beginning. It had an effect, and then we backed off.

President Trump, don't back off on Huawei.

Commerce Secretary Ross, don't back off on Huawei.

Secretary of Treasury Mnuchin and Ambassador Lighthizer, stay strong.

This will get the Chinese to play fair; talking won't. Tariffs are one tool; this is another. We need all the tools in our toolbox to get China to play fair.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

TARIFFS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Friday's announcement that the administration had reached an agreement to remove steel and aluminum tariffs on Canada and Mexico was great news for American consumers, producers, and workers. Mexican and Canadian retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products have already been lifted. That is a big deal for American producers, especially for farmers and ranchers, who were hit the hardest by Mexico and Canada's retaliatory tariffs.

Friday's agreement is also important because it removes a significant road-

block to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. With the aluminum and steel tariff settlement and labor reforms recently adopted by the Mexican Government, two major Democratic objections to passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement have been addressed. Now it is time for the House Democratic leadership to indicate its willingness to take up the agreement in the near future.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement would boost almost every sector of the American economy, from automotive manufacturing, to digital services, to dairy farming. It would create 176,000 new jobs and increase wages for workers. It is time to take up this agreement. As I said, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free-trade agreement would be a boon for U.S. producers and U.S. workers.

This is the kind of stuff we should be spending our time on in Washington—measures that grow our economy, increase opportunity, and improve life for the American people. That is what Republicans have been working on. Our policies have helped produce the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years and more jobs and higher wages for workers.

Unfortunately, my colleagues across the aisle seem more interested in relitigating the 2016 election and accelerating their party's rapid move toward the radical fringe left.

While I realize the Democrats are disappointed with the results of the 2016 Presidential election, it is time for them to accept the fact that they lost. It has been more than 2 years now, and Democrats are still more focused on opposing this President than on getting things done for the American people.

When Democrats do get around to talking about legislation, too often, it is proposals from the radical fringe left, which is rapidly swallowing up the Democratic mainstream. Take the Green New Deal, the Democrats' plan for a government takeover of a large section of the economy in the name of clean energy. The estimated price tag for this government takeover is between \$51 trillion and \$93 trillion over 10 years. To put that number in perspective, \$93 trillion is more money than the U.S. Government has spent in its entire history, and \$93 trillion is more money than the 2017 gross domestic product of the entire world.

How do Democrats plan to pay for this? Well, they don't actually have a plan. Their usual "tax the rich" solution won't work since taxing every wealthy American at a 100-percent rate wouldn't come anywhere close to paying for the Green New Deal. Should the Green New Deal ever come to pass, working Americans would face massive tax hikes for the privilege of having government dictate the design of their house and the type of their car.

Then, of course, there is the Democrats' plan for a government takeover of the Nation's healthcare. Under so-

called Medicare for All, the government would take away Americans' insurance choices and force everyone into a single one-size-fits-all, government-run plan and then tax Americans to pay for it.

Thanks to policies like tax reform, American families are doing better than they have been doing in a long time. They have been taking home more money. They have access to better jobs and more opportunities, and they are enjoying better wages and benefits. To most people, it would seem logical to continue and build on the policies that have gotten us here, but not to Democrats. Democrats want to overturn the policies that have gotten us to this point. Instead of tax cuts, they want tax hikes so they can implement their socialist fantasies. Instead of less government interference in Americans' lives, they want more. They think the government should be directing your healthcare choices, your housing choices, your energy choices, and much more. It is unfortunate that the Democratic Party is being swallowed by its extreme left wing.

Republicans are going to do everything we can to protect Americans from Democrats' socialist fantasies and to continue to expand the choices and the opportunities available to American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, next Saturday, June 1, marks the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season. It is an important reminder for everyone—from individuals and families to businesses and local officials—to review preparedness efforts to ensure you are ready for anything that Mother Nature may throw at you.

There are simple steps, of course, that everybody can take, like reviewing evacuation routes, signing up for emergency alerts, and making a family communications plan. This is also a great time to look at your insurance policies to ensure that you have the right coverage. This isn't the most fun conversation or topic to talk about at the dinner table, but in the event of a disaster, these small steps can make a world of difference.

As we gear up for the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season, I can't help but think back on the devastation my State saw in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit. This storm was the largest rain event in American history, and some parts of Texas are still in the recovery mode. Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rain to some parts of Houston.

I am sure that many Americans can remember the TV footage of the devastating scenes and the heroism of people who rose to the challenge and helped. The roofs of homes were completely torn off and revealed knee-deep water and scattered furniture. Streets looked like rivers that were filled with small boats that led rescue operations. Folks linked arms and made human chains to help save people who were stranded in their vehicles.

It was the second most expensive hurricane in history, only behind Hurricane Katrina, with an estimated total cost of \$125 billion. While we can put a price tag on the damaged homes, businesses, and infrastructure, there is no way we could even begin to quantify the impact this storm had on lost loved ones and how much it completely upended so many lives.

With that heartbreak fresh on our minds, it only underscores the importance of strengthening our preparedness efforts. Unlike many threats we face, either from our adversaries on the ground or in cyberspace, there is nothing we can do to stop Mother Nature in her tracks. Our only course of action is to be prepared and to build resilient communities that can withstand the impact. We need to continue to do everything in our power to provide assistance to State and local governments so they can protect themselves in the event of severe weather.

One may recall, in the wake of Hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters, that Congress worked hard to provide disaster relief to Texas and other States that were adversely affected. While there is still a lot of work to be done, these dollars have helped my State to rebuild and to bring back some semblance of normalcy. I am grateful to all of our colleagues here for working with us, as well as with Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the other places that were hit at about that same time. I am grateful for the assistance of a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen and for President Trump who worked together to provide disaster relief in the wake of this devastation. Yet here is the rub—much of the funding that has been approved for Texas still hasn't been untangled from the redtape here in Washington, DC.

In February 2018—15 months ago—Congress appropriated more than \$28 billion in community development block grants for disaster recovery, with roughly \$12 billion intended specifically for mitigation purposes. About \$4 billion of that was designated for Texas, and it could still be used to do things, like to repair wastewater treatment facilities that haven't been fully restored, to carry out important economic revitalization in decimated areas, or to relocate or elevate damaged facilities in order to prepare for the next storm. Yet we have not seen a cent of that \$4 billion because it has been tied up at the Office of Management and Budget.

I have said before and will say it again: I look at the Constitution. I see what the President's authority is. I see what the House of Representatives' authority is. I see what the U.S. Senate's authority is. My understanding is, when they all agree on an appropriations bill, that it is the law of the land. Yet somehow, this Agency—the Office of Management and Budget—has seen fit to usurp that authority and to defeat the will of Congress when it comes to getting disaster relief to the intended beneficiaries.

This undue delay, I believe, is unacceptable but is, sadly, not unique to my State. Other States are facing this same unnecessary holdup in getting desperately needed funds. One of those States is West Virginia, which has been waiting more than 3 years to receive funding after the devastating floods of June 2016.

I and my colleague from West Virginia, Senator MANCHIN, recently introduced a bill that would require the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that these appropriated funds are promptly disbursed. The Bipartisan Disaster Recovery Funding Act would start a timer—a shock clock, if you will—on when the OMB must release the money. It would give it 60 days to get these dollars untangled from the redtape and get them to the communities that desperately need them.

It is important to note that this change would apply not only to this particular block of funding but to any funds appropriated to States that are being withheld by OMB.

As appropriators continue to work on a disaster supplemental this week, I hope they will include a provision to ensure that States like Texas that have already suffered from a major disaster don't become victims of government bureaucracy.

It has now been 467 days since the President signed a bill that would have sent roughly \$48 billion to Texas, and it is tough to imagine what communities could have accomplished in that time and how much progress could have been made if simply Congress's and the executive branch's will had been carried out by the Federal bureaucracy.

With the 2019 hurricane season only a week and half away, it is critical we get this money out of Washington and into the hands of those who need it so we can begin to work on long-term projects to protect the Texas coast and protect against future storms.

Of course Hurricane Harvey was not the first storm to hit my State, and I guarantee it will not be the last. Texans have waited long enough for the funding that we were promised and that Congress appropriated over the signature of the President, and I hope we can pass something soon to improve the resilience in these communities and carry out congressional will.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABORTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I want to start today by expressing my appreciation to all of my colleagues who will be out here today speaking out and to the women and men nationwide who are doing the same today in their own communities.

In the last few weeks, we have seen some of the most blatant and cruel efforts yet to deny women access to a safe, legal abortion. We have seen legislation so extreme, it would even block a 12-year-old survivor of rape from getting an abortion and sentence healthcare providers to prison for providing safe, medically sound care to their patients, which is their responsibility.

The extreme politicians behind these cruel abortion bans are not stopping in Alabama or Missouri or anywhere else; they want to take these bans all the way to the Supreme Court. They want to allow Brett Kavanaugh to do what President Trump and Republicans chose him to do—roll back the decision in *Roe v. Wade* that established a woman's constitutionally protected right to make her own decisions about her own body and her own healthcare.

They are pushing for this even though they know as well as we do that without the ability to exercise that right, women lose their lives; even though they know just as well as we do that without this right, doctors will be blocked from providing medically appropriate care. Let me be frank. Extreme conservatives will push these abortion bans all the way to the Supreme Court even though they know—or maybe even because they do know—that in a world where women cannot control what happens to their own bodies, they are less able to plan their family and stay financially secure and independent. That means they are less free and less equal.

I am not going to stand for that, and Senate Democrats are not going to stand for that either. I am proud to be on the floor today with a number of my colleagues who will be here standing for what our Constitution confirms is true: Women have the right to access safe, legal abortion, and this makes our country stronger because women are absolutely critical to our country's strength. I am proud to be making clear that even in the face of relentless attacks on women's health and rights, we are not going to back down one bit.

The truth is, there are certain extreme politicians around the country who want to take us backward to the

"Mad Men" era or, honestly, quite a bit before that. But they aren't speaking for our country—quite the opposite. In fact, the vast majority of women and men nationwide, including those from all different backgrounds, agree that abortion should be safe and it should be legal, just as our Constitution says. Those people are watching now. They are speaking up, and they are absolutely going to remember who stood up to protect women's health and rights and who pushed to take those rights away.

We have a number of Senators who will be speaking about this today, and I want to thank them for being here today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, while she is on the floor, I want to commend my northwest colleague and friend, Senator MURRAY, for all of her leadership, constantly coming to the floor and leading us on this enormous health challenge—a challenge that is really existential for so many women across the country.

Right now in State capitals across the land, Republican lawmakers are passing extreme bills that throw in the trash can 45 years of settled law on reproductive health. This is an open, coordinated attack on *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose the healthcare she needs. These Republican lawmakers are passing bills that are not only harmful, but they are overwhelmingly opposed by the public—bills with harsh criminal penalties for women and doctors, bills with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest, bills that explicitly compare women getting medical care to the Holocaust. Let me repeat that—bills that explicitly compare women getting medical care to the Holocaust.

I want to be clear on what this is all about. The party of Donald Trump is insisting on government control of women's bodies. That is what is on the table in Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, and elsewhere—government control of women's bodies.

Millions of women across the land are watching in anger and in fear as all of this is playing out. I have heard from many of them back home in Oregon. I heard it last weekend. I have four town meetings in the rural part of Oregon coming up; I am going to hear it again. Women are afraid for the future—their future and their family's future—because they know what is at stake with this coordinated attack on their rights.

First, it puts women's lives in danger.

The reality is, abortions will still happen in States that pass these laws, but those abortions will happen later, and they will be unsafe. Women are going to die. That is a fact. Women are going to die because of these restrictions. If you need proof, just look at the figures before and after the *Roe*

case. In the decades before *Roe*, thousands of women died due to unsafe abortions. And those are only the ones people know about. That doesn't even take into consideration the unnamed, the unknown victims of those misguided policies. After *Roe* was decided in 1973, women's healthcare got safer. Now, once again, there is an effort to undermine that safety of women.

Second, in key ways, the future these restrictive laws are creating is worse for women and healthcare professionals than before *Roe*.

What we are talking about now is jailing doctors for life. We are talking about treating women like hardened criminals after they get a medical procedure. Women in some places are facing the prospect that they may need to report miscarriages to the government or they could wind up in prison.

The other side in this debate paints a picture of women exercising their right to choose that is unfair and unrealistic. These are incredibly difficult choices. Many women exercising the right to choose have just been hit with the most devastating medical news that prospective parents can face. It is not up to State lawmakers and government bureaucrats to step in and interfere with this intensely private and personal choice, but that is exactly what is on offer with the laws being passed in statehouses across the land. These laws bind and punish women with a level of government control that did not exist before *Roe*. This is right out of nightmarish fiction. It is a coordinated attack on women's rights that is cruel and dangerous.

Abortion and other reproductive decisions are healthcare, and healthcare choices ought to be made by women with the help of doctors they trust, not by the Federal Government and not by State lawmakers—women and doctors. That is it. Full stop.

My Democratic colleagues and I want to thank Senator MURRAY and Senator SHAHEEN, who have been such advocates for women's healthcare for many years in public service. They are here.

We are all going to be part of this effort that I am proud to join in to fight at the Federal level with everything we have to stand up for women's right to make intensely personal choices, and we are going to be joining those women across the land who are standing up and fighting with everything they have.

The government should not have control of women's bodies—end of story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here to join my colleagues. I was going to say I am pleased, but I am not pleased. I am disappointed that we are here on the floor today talking about something that should be an issue that is decided by women with their families and their physicians. Yet we are here to sound the alarm about the relentless assault State legislatures and

this administration have leveled against constitutionally protected reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose the healthcare she needs.

I certainly applaud Senator MURRAY, who has done such a great job of leading the response to this assault, and my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, for his efforts.

This radical effort to limit women's freedom to a full range of reproductive care is part of a broader strategy by some in this country to take healthcare away from people who need it. Americans across the country, both women and men, are calling out these threats and fighting them head-on. Today, in hundreds of capitals across this country, in courthouses, at hundreds of rallies, a powerful message is being sent that we are not going back. As Members of Congress here in Washington, we need to join them and defend women's reproductive rights.

In just the past 2 weeks, Governors in Alabama and Georgia signed extreme and dangerous abortion restrictions into law. Yesterday, the Missouri Legislature passed another bill to place draconian restrictions on a woman's access to abortion. These actions are part of a concerted effort around the country to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and to deny women access to reproductive care.

What is so ironic about this is that this is coming at a time when last year this country saw fewer unintended pregnancies than at any time in our history because giving women access to family planning, to the range of reproductive healthcare that women need, means that there are fewer unintended pregnancies. What laws like this will mean is that there will be more abortions, more unintended pregnancies, more maternal health deaths. That is not the direction in which we should be going.

All of these State actions are concerning, especially the new Alabama law, which would outlaw abortion in virtually all instances with no exception for cases of rape or incest. The Alabama law also establishes prison sentences for providers who perform abortions in violation of the abortion ban. So think about that for a second. If a doctor performs an abortion for a rape victim, the Alabama law could put that doctor in prison for as long as or even longer than the rapist. That makes no sense. The Alabama abortion ban, and so many other State laws like it, will not only impede on a woman's freedom to make her own reproductive choices, but it will also push women into the shadows and increase the likelihood of unsafe abortions. We know that. We have data that shows that—not just in the United States but around the world.

Today, one in three women live in States where abortion would be outlawed if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

The Alabama law and other State abortion bans are designed as a direct challenge to the protections provided

by *Roe* in the hopes of forcing action from the Supreme Court and sowing chaos in those States where abortion would be outlawed. So rather than thinking about women and how they will be affected by this law, it is strictly designed to try to challenge the current *Roe v. Wade* law.

Unfortunately, even in the light of the extreme nature of these recent abortion bans, we have an administration that is compounding the issue through its own actions to interfere with access to reproductive health services. Now, whether it is creating new administrative obstacles to insurance coverage of abortion, preventing title X family planning clinics from informing their patients about reproductive care choices, or any of the many other recent Federal actions, the Trump administration's clear goal is to chip away at access to abortion.

Now, these recent actions by States and the administration pose grave threats to the freedoms and reproductive health protections that are relied on by women all across this country.

At this critical time, we need to say loud and clear that we are ready to fight these extreme actions with everything we have.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have been speaking this morning about the access to healthcare for women in America. Today, as women take action across the Nation to bring focus to this issue, I would like to join my colleagues, particularly the senior Senator from Washington, and I thank her for her leadership on this important issue. She knows better than most how many times the Senate and the Congress in the last decade have fought over access to healthcare for women. It seems like every budget debate, every fiscal cliff, every budget negotiation, and every issue had to have a debate about whether we were going to defund Planned Parenthood. So it is not a surprise that we are out here today as States across the Nation try to roll back access to healthcare. I guarantee you, I believe and my State believes that access to healthcare should be and is protected under the Constitution as a right to privacy. We believe that and codified *Roe v. Wade* into statute by a vote of the people in the 1990s. So any time anybody is going to take on access to healthcare for women and erode what is a basic right in our State and, I believe, a basic right protected in our Constitution, we are going to raise our

voices. You are going to hear from us. So it is amazing to me that every budget battle and every debate here in the Senate comes down to rolling back access to women's healthcare.

Now we see Supreme Court Justices who may or may not uphold those basic rights as were established in *Connecticut v. Griswold*, as did a Supreme Court Justice, who just happened to hail from the State of Washington, who understood that the privacy rights protected in the Constitution are in the penumbra of rights. So, yes, I believe that our Supreme Court Justices should also continue that well-established practice of observing those privacy rights. So it is hard to say what all of these State actions will lead to, whether they will make it to the Supreme Court and what this Supreme Court will have to say about it. But I can tell you that we here in the Senate—women who understand the access to healthcare—are so emphatic that we not erode these rights.

I had the very unfortunate situation of having to speak at a funeral this weekend for a 28-year-old former staff member who died of cancer. I know how much fight she had in her, but it was afterward where one of her relatives said to me: Senator, you cannot leave this unaddressed.

Young women at college campuses are not getting the breast exams to do early detection that they should. They should be out there. We should do more to evangelize that young women need to pay attention to their healthcare. Yet we are here across the Nation having this debate, and I guarantee you that the access to healthcare to do those early detections in a lot of communities comes with the access that organizations like Planned Parenthood and others deliver. So while they are not what is immediately under attack by these States, I guarantee you that it is all a part of a larger debate that needs to stop.

Healthcare should be the right of women to be discussed with their doctors and continue to be protected under our Constitution.

I thank the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Washington for that personal story, and I am sorry for her loss of a former staff member. I think that story is a good place to start because this isn't just about an isolated bill passing in one State. This is actually part of a greater effort.

As you look at what this administration has been trying to do since day one, defunding Planned Parenthood—OK, well, that is where one out of five women in their lifetime will go to seek healthcare for things like cancer screenings and for things like contraception. You look at the fact that over the span of the last administration, we actually reduced abortions to the lowest level in recorded history. That is a

good thing. People who are personally opposed to abortion or people who are pro-choice can agree that that is a good thing. Why did that happen? Because contraception was available. Why did that happen? Because healthcare was available that allowed, with more ease, women to access contraception. So now what do we have? We have three things going on. These restrictive laws that literally put doctors in prison for 99 years is what I will talk about today. We have an effort to defund Planned Parenthood and to reduce access to contraception as a result. Then we have an effort—a major effort—to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, which would allow women to be kicked off of their healthcare insurance if they have a preexisting condition. Before that act came into law, in eight States, being a victim of domestic abuse was considered a preexisting condition. So do not see these laws that were just passed in these States and are being considered in these States as isolated. Look at it as a complete package, and it is not a package that the women of this country want to get in the mail.

I have always believed that a woman's most personal and difficult medical decisions should be made with her doctor and her family and that those decisions should not be undermined or politicized by Government officials. But that is exactly what we are seeing today. In the last few months, an alarming number of States have passed laws to limit a woman's ability to seek reproductive healthcare services. Kentucky, Ohio, Mississippi, and Georgia have all recently passed measures that basically amount to a ban on abortion. Just last week, Alabama passed a bill that effectively and in writing banned abortion completely. The bill which passed the Alabama State Senate—by the way, without a vote of a single woman senator—would allow a doctor who performed an abortion to be sent to jail for 99 years. The Alabama law's only exception is if a woman's life is at risk. It does not even include an exception for incidents of rape or incest. So what does this mean? Well, if your kid is in college and gets brutally raped, it means that she would not have a choice about whether or not she would carry a baby. That is what that law says in Alabama. And if a doctor intervened, if a doctor wanted to help in that State, he would be sent to prison for 99 years—or up to 99 years. This is not something I am making up or exaggerating; this is what this bill that passed one of the States and is similar to bills in other States actually says.

What we are seeing, of course, is wrong and unconstitutional. These bills directly infringe on a woman's right to make her own medical decisions and the precedent that the Supreme Court set in *Roe v. Wade*, which has been affirmed many times over the last 46 years.

You wonder where the public is on this? Seventy-three percent of Ameri-

cans do not believe that *Roe v. Wade* should be reversed. In my State, I have people who are pro-choice, and I have people who are pro-life. I have people who personally believe they do not want to have an abortion; however, they don't think that their views should dictate what happens to their neighbors. That is the problem. That is the nub of the problem with what is going on in these States.

The precedent in *Roe* is clear, but these lawmakers have decided that they want to take away a woman's basic right to make a personal healthcare decision. In fact, they are passing these bills with the hope that it goes to the Supreme Court where this administration has placed judges on that Court where there is a lot of hope, with the people who are passing these restrictive laws, that they are going to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

After signing the new abortion ban into law, the Governor of Alabama released a statement in which he said the sponsors of this bill believe it is time, once again, for the U.S. Supreme Court to revisit this important matter, and they believe this act may bring about “the best opportunity for this to occur.”

So don't tell me this is just one legislature deciding they are going to do something other people in this Chamber on the other side of the aisle don't agree with. No. No. No. This has been an effort that has been going on for years. This is an effort that is going on during an administration with a President that, in a townhall meeting in March of 2016, said that he thought women should be punished for making that decision. A few hours later, his campaign tries to dial it back with the statement: No, he meant that doctors should be punished.

This is not just an isolated incident, which is why so many of my colleagues have taken to the floor today. We can have individual disagreements, and we can have our own personal beliefs, but as elected officials, we must follow the Constitution of the United States. Overturning *Roe* isn't just unconstitutional. As I said, it is against the wishes of the vast majority of the people in this country.

In the last few years, as I have noted, we have seen an assault on women's access to care. We have seen it with the attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, even though, during the Obama administration, we saw a historic decrease in abortions. According to a CDC study conducted between 2006 and 2015, abortion rates fell to historic lows near the end of the Obama administration.

What should we be doing? Well, we should be providing more access to healthcare services, comprehensive health education, and contraception, not less. We should ensure that women are equipped with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed healthcare decisions.

In the Senate, I have fought back against efforts to undermine the abil-

ity of a woman to make choices about her own health. I have cosponsored the Women's Health Protection Act, important legislation led by Senator BLUMENTHAL, to prohibit laws intended to restrict women's access to reproductive health services, and I look forward to cosponsoring this bill again when it is reintroduced.

I thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership over her many, many years in this area. It is our responsibility to treat women in every State in this Union with respect and dignity, instead of using them as political pawns.

I join my colleagues in condemning these recent efforts to restrict women's access to healthcare services, and I will continue working to protect the health and lives of women across the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is difficult to believe that it is happening, but I have seen it. It was about 5 weeks ago that I was in El Paso, TX. I went down to see what has been happening on the border. You can't escape all the stories that have been written about the number of people who are coming to our border and what is happening to them, so I wanted to see it for myself.

I saw what was a detention facility for people who had been stopped at the border. There was a cell with a plate glass window, so that you could see everything inside. Above the door of the cell, it said, “capacity 35.” I looked inside and counted—took the time to slowly count—and I counted 150 men in that cell, standing shoulder to shoulder. Few of them could sit on the benches on the side of the walls—150.

There was one toilet in that cell. They were fed their meals to eat standing up. They slept taking turns lying down on the floor. Some of them would be there for 3 days and some as long as 6 weeks.

Next to that cell was another one with a plate glass window; you could see inside. Above the door, it read, “capacity 16.” This was a cell for women. I counted 75 women in that cell—“capacity 16.” There were four or five of them with nursing babies.

I have since learned, in the few weeks since I saw this and witnessed it firsthand, things have gotten dramatically worse. The cell with 150 now has almost 200 men jammed into it. The cell with the women is even worse than what I saw when I visited.

If I described these conditions in a prison in some foreign country, you would say: For goodness' sakes, the United States of America should speak up for human rights. We cannot allow human beings to be treated that way.

This detention facility for these immigrants is in the United States of America. It has to come to an end, and it has to start with a commitment by the people of this country through their elected representatives in Congress and this President to stop this inhumane treatment of these individuals.

Today, I am sending a letter that I never thought I would send. I am joining other Senators in a letter to the International Red Cross. You see, we call on the International Red Cross to go to developing countries and look at their prison situations and decide whether they are humane.

I cannot believe that I am asking them to do this in the United States of America. Because I have seen it with my own eyes and I have been told that it is getting worse, I feel I have no choice.

I am also asking for the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security to immediately, on an emergency basis, review the detention facilities for adults and children. Why do I raise that point? We know what this administration did last year in a project called zero tolerance.

Zero tolerance, announced by the Attorney General of the United States Jeff Sessions, said we will treat everyone who comes to our border as a criminal. Understand that people can come to our border and present themselves, as many of these people do, and ask for asylum. They have turned themselves in. They are not sneaking in.

They have turned themselves in for adjudication as to whether they are eligible to be in this country. Attorney General Sessions said last year that we will treat them as criminals, and therefore, because they are suspected criminals, we will remove their children from them.

How many kids under zero tolerance were taken by the Trump administration away from their parents? More than two thousand eight hundred—I know that number because a Federal judge in southern California took this administration to court and said: I want an accounting for every one of those children.

I saw those children—at least some of them—in Chicago. They go through a bureaucratic process and end up at agencies—at Health and Human Services agencies to try to place them in foster care or connect them up with a member of their family.

I remember, in a room, they brought in some of the children who had been taken away from their parents. There were two little 4-year-old girls who I thought were sisters, and then as I looked more closely, I realized they weren't. They just seemed like sisters, and they had become friends at that facility. They were 4 years old, holding hands. We gave them crayons and coloring books, what you would give to little kids.

Then I went to an immigration court proceeding in downtown Chicago in an

office building. You would never know it from the street, but on the fourth floor of this high-rise, we have a U.S. immigration court. A very caring judge was there, and she was trying to get through a docket that was very heavy.

She invited me to stay for the first case of the day that involved two clients. It was tough to get this proceeding underway because zero tolerance had resulted in more children coming into these immigration courts. The difficulty in getting this hearing underway was that she said: Before we start, I want everyone to take their seats.

It was hard to get Marta to take her seat. Marta was 2 years old. She had to be lifted into the chair and handed a stuffed animal for her hearing. Luckily for the other client, Hamilton, he spotted one of those Matchbox cars on top of the table, and 4-year-old Hamilton scrambled up into the chair.

In the United States of America at an immigration hearing, the clients were 2 years old and 4 years old because of the conscious policy of this administration to separate children from their parents. So we have this setting with detention cells jammed with people in inhumane circumstances and the separation of children from their parents.

I sent a letter to the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services asking about these children who had been separated. They came back to me a few months ago and said: We have discovered there were more.

Before they announced it, this administration had been separating infants, toddlers, and children from their parents as they presented themselves at the border. The judge who was involved in the case in southern California stepped in and asked: Well, how many?

It is now reported at least 1,712 more kids may have been separated. That means we have over 4,500 babies, toddlers, infants, and children separated from their parents by this administration. Sadly, some of these children will not be reunited. Their parents were sent back, usually to the Central American countries they came from, and now the kids are in the system and way too young to even remember who Mom or Dad was.

This circumstance has reached the point of a humanitarian crisis on our border. How can this President, who was elected promising that he would do something about immigration, have brought us to this terrible moment where we have more people presenting themselves at the border than we have had in recent history—certainly those with children? We have never had families in these numbers showing up. The tougher this President's rhetoric is and the meaner his tweets are, the more people come to our borders. It is exactly the opposite of what he promised us.

This circumstance here is absolutely intolerable, unacceptable, and embar-

assing to our country. That we would have to call on an international organization to look at the way we are treating people in the United States—I am sorry it has come to this. But in good conscience, I can't ignore it.

The most recent news report said that another child died at the border. I think that brings the total to five in the last few months. Is that what America has come to?

We need to have an immigration policy that makes sense. Absolutely, we must have border security. In an age of terrorism and drug epidemics, I want to know what is coming into this country, and I want to know what they are bringing with them.

Second, the United States certainly cannot accept everyone in the world who wants to come here. It is understandable they want to live in this great country. That is what brought my grandmother and more to these shores as immigrants to this country. But we cannot accept everyone in the world.

Third, we don't want anyone dangerous coming into this country, period. No exceptions. If you are dangerous and not legal in this country, you should be gone.

Having said that, now it is our burden to come up with a comprehensive immigration bill that makes sense for this Nation of immigrants in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Senate and this empty Chamber tell you how much work we do on legislation. We give speeches—we ran for the Senate to give speeches—and occasionally we vote on another nominee every few hours. That is it. You will not see a comprehensive immigration bill come to the floor of the Senate. It hasn't—not this year and not for the previous 6 years. But the last time it did, I was part of a bipartisan effort that wrote one that passed the Senate with I believe 68 votes—an overwhelming rollcall, bipartisan, in favor of immigration reform. That died in the Republican-controlled House, and there has never been another try since. Why were we elected to come here if we can't face this problem squarely, dealing with what is going on at our border and making sense of our immigration system?

There is a humanitarian nightmare on our border, but I will tell you about another one. This President decided to end the DACA Program. I know a little bit about that—maybe more than some of my colleagues—because it was 19 years ago that I introduced a bill. We do a lot of that. This bill was called the DREAM Act—19 years ago. It said: If you were brought to this country as a child, you lived here, went to school, and didn't get in trouble with the law, you ought to have a chance to become legal in America. That was it. For 19 years, we have been trying to make it the law of the land and have been unable to get 60 votes in the Senate. We always got a majority but never the 60 votes we needed.

I appealed to my former Senate colleague and friend, President Obama, and said: Can you do something to help these young people who have never known another country and want to be part of the United States and its future? Many of the schoolchildren who visit us here get up in their classrooms every day, and I am proud to say they put their hands over their hearts and pledge allegiance to that flag. These kids do exactly the same thing. It is the only flag and the only country they have ever known.

So President Obama created what was called DACA, and more than 800,000 of these young people stepped up, paid a filing fee of almost \$500, went through a criminal background check, and were given a chance to stay legally in the United States for 2 years at a time, not to be deported but be able to work and go to school—more than 800,000 of them.

I really believe in them. And you know human nature—out of 800,000, there have to be some of them in there who are going to disappoint you. But I stand here today in the Senate and tell you that in all of these years since President Obama did that, I have never heard any of those stories. These are extraordinary young men and women. I have told their stories on the floor of the Senate—over 120 of them—of how these DACA-protected young people want to become part of America's future.

Let me tell you about a group of them in Chicago. Loyola University in Chicago is a great school, and they have a great school of medicine. When they heard about the DACA Program, they said: We are going to open up competition to these DACA-protected young people to compete to go to medical school. And the news flashed across the country because many of these young people who dreamed of being doctors had no chance because they were undocumented. Because of DACA, they were given temporary legal status, and because of Loyola University, they were able to apply. Over 30 of them were accepted to the medical school—some of the brightest kids living in our country who wanted to become doctors.

There was a catch: If you went to Loyola and you needed to borrow money—and most of them did—you had to promise to give a year of service back to the State of Illinois, which loaned you the money to go to school, for each year they loaned the money. They signed up for it. They were ready to go to neighborhoods where we needed doctors and to small towns in rural America where we desperately need doctors. These young people are some of the best and brightest I have ever met, every one of them an inspiration.

When President Trump eliminated the DACA Program, he eliminated their opportunity to continue their medical education. You see, after 4 years of medical school, you go into a residency. A residency is a job, employ-

ment, and it is a lot more than 40 hours a week, I might add. But since President Trump eliminated DACA, they cannot legally take a job.

This case is going through the courts now as to whether the President had the right to eliminate DACA. He didn't. Last Friday, a second court said that he was wrong, that he had no reason, no basis to eliminate this program.

When you hear these stories about what is happening at the border and at these detention cells; when you hear about the conscious decision of this administration to separate infants and toddlers from their parents—4,500 of them having been separated; when you hear about this administration coming forward to eliminate the DACA Program and to stop these medical students from becoming doctors and serving in my State, where they are desperately needed, you have to ask: Mr. President, what is your immigration policy? Why have you made such a mess of this situation that wasn't very good to start with?

And what are we going to do about it? Anything? Not in this empty Chamber. Not today. We are just going to pick up the papers every morning and say: Isn't it a shame? Well, it is more than a shame; it is an embarrassment to this country that this Nation of immigrants has reached this moment.

Mr. President, I continue to appeal to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please, come forward, and let's solve these problems together.

I have been part of bipartisan groups who have come up with comprehensive bills and all sorts of legislative responses. My door is always open to anyone who wants to sit down.

In the meantime, bring humanity to our border. Let's not do things with these people presenting themselves at our border that don't speak well of our values and our reputation around the world. We can do better. We can provide humane treatment.

Even as Congress fails to do its job, those people at the border deserve to be treated like human beings as we work through our legal issues and our political issues. No more separation of children from their parents. How devastating it must be for that child. When some of these parents were reunited with their children—these little babies and infants—the young kids wouldn't talk to their mothers. They turned away from them. With their body language, they said what we knew was going through their minds: You abandoned me. You left me. I don't know who you are anymore.

Over time, maybe they can reestablish that relationship. Child psychologists tell us there could be some damage that needs to be repaired there. Isn't that a shame, that an innocent child would go through that experience?

Now that we know there may be 1,712 more of these children, we need to do everything we can to work with this

Federal judge, who had the courage to step up, to reunite them with their parents as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, I want to call on this administration and the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, to go down to the border, take a look at the detention facilities, and do everything possible to make certain there is humane treatment there. These are desperate people risking their lives to come to this United States of America. We owe them at least humane treatment while they are here, as our political and legal system works its way through it.

(Mr. CRUZ assumed the Chair.)

ABORTION

Mr. President, people are following what is happening in States like Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, where State legislatures are considering legislation on the issue of abortion.

I know this is a very inflammatory and divisive issue. I have seen it firsthand throughout my political career. I have good friends who are on one side of the issue, who smile and say hello but wouldn't vote for me in 100 years because of this issue. I have others who passionately support me because they are on the other side of the issue. For some people, it really is the litmus test on how they will vote for a candidate.

For over 40 years, we have tried to reconcile this issue, this basic question: When does life begin? In *Roe v. Wade*, the U.S. Supreme Court said: We are going to base it on the concept of viability, survivability of the fetus, as to an individual's right when it comes to making this decision as opposed to society's right or responsibility.

Over the years, there has been a lot of debate as to whether that *Roe v. Wade* decision was right or wrong. We have seen a lot of different efforts to change it—some successful and some not—and we have seen subsequent Supreme Court cases which redefined *Roe v. Wade* as well.

Now we have a group who believes they can move forward on this in the State of Georgia and in the State of Alabama. What they have proposed is much different from what we had accepted as the norm for decades. For example, they have eliminated any exceptions for rape and incest. Most people understand that victims of rape and incest should be viewed differently from others, but in the State of Alabama, they eliminated those exceptions in the law they have just passed.

Why are they doing that now when Federal courts in the past have—in the immediate past—decided they can't go that far? It is because they believe that because of the actions of the U.S. Senate, it is going to change in the courts. This President has appointed two new Justices to the Supreme Court—Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. The belief is, even though they have told us over and over again that *Roe v. Wade* was settled law, if this new law in Alabama

makes it across the street to the Supreme Court, they may use this Alabama law to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

On a regular basis here, we continue to bring judges before us who have extreme views on this subject and, without much debate, give them lifetime appointments to the Federal bench—district and circuit court judges, several of whom are before us this week.

I have heard from them in the committees. Just last week, we had Judge Vitter from Louisiana. She is a person who has blamed Planned Parenthood for deaths and has said at one point that she believes that contraception—the pill—was dangerous to women. That was her conclusion without scientific evidence to back it.

She just got a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench. Those are the kinds of nominees who are brought to us by this administration. So is it any wonder that the Alabama legislators were encouraged to think, if we can pass this law and just get it to the right Federal judge, somebody under the Trump administration, we are going to overturn *Roe v. Wade*? I think that would be a serious mistake if it happens.

The overwhelming majority of Americans support *Roe v. Wade*. Yet a total of 30 States have now sought to restrict the rights of women to make that healthcare decision, and some would directly or virtually reverse *Roe v. Wade*. What we are facing is not a few far-right politicians making a statement out of mainstream. This is a systematic effort by Republicans and State legislators to restrict women's reproductive rights and ultimately overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

What else do these State legislators have in common? They rank among the lowest when it comes to gender representation and women in power. Meanwhile, here in the Senate, Republican Leader McCONNELL has lined up even more extreme ideological judicial nominees who have records of restricting women's rights.

Just last week, as I mentioned, the Republican majority confirmed Ms. Wendy Vitter, who once promoted the concept that contraceptives cause cancer and claimed that Planned Parenthood kills 150,000 women a year. That anyone can make those statements and then be approved by this Senate Chamber for a lifetime appointment to a Federal bench tells you the standards being used by the Trump administration and by the Republicans in this body. She was confirmed to a lifetime appointment.

This week, the Senate is considering Mr. Daniel Collins, who has been nominated to the Ninth Circuit over the objections of both California Senators. He filed an amicus brief in support of Hobby Lobby petitions to deny female employees of that corporation contraceptive care, and he has argued that pregnancy clinics need not follow a local notification law informing patients about their options when it comes to birth control.

Also, this week, we are considering North Carolina district court nominee Kenneth Bell, who once wrote in an op-ed, and I quote, "There is no middle ground" on this issue of abortion.

Missouri district nominee Stephen Clark is before us as well. He spent much of his legal career litigating against reproductive rights and access to contraceptives.

These are the nominees to take lifetime appointments on the Federal court. You have to bring together the action of Alabama with the action on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Alabama is setting up the test case. The Republicans in the Senate are setting up the courts in the hopes that they will rule in their test case to put an end to *Roe v. Wade* and to say that despite the support of a majority of Americans, women do not have the last word when it comes to their own bodies, their own lives, and their own pregnancies.

That is what this is about today in America on our political scene. That is certainly what the next election is all about, as well—division of America, the rights of women, and the rights of individuals to make their own decisions about their own bodies.

I hope that the Republican leaders who have expressed their misgivings about the Alabama legislation will do much more than that. I hope they will join us in trying to maintain some sort—if not a consensus, some sort of understanding about how we deal with this extremely divisive issue.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KING

Mr. President, in a sermon on the Good Samaritan, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that most people who come upon a stranger in need ask: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?"

But the Good Samaritan reverses the question and asks: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

The latter person is rare and special, Dr. King said. On the Saturday before Easter, that special person was another man named Robert King of Chicago. Mr. King was driving on heavily traveled Lake Shore Drive, which passes right in front of my apartment, when he saw a green and white van on the side of the road. Another vehicle had crashed into that van at a stoplight. The van was a wreck.

Many cars passed the accident and did nothing, but Robert King didn't. Mr. King pulled over to stop and see if he could help. He noticed that the man in the van held a cooler and thought he might be delivering food. King was stunned to find out that the van was an organ transplant vehicle and the man in the van was an organ transplant surgeon, Dr. Kofi Atiemo. Inside the cooler were three precious human organs—a liver, a kidney, and a pancreas—that needed to be rushed to nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital as soon as possible.

Robert King, a passerby, stopped to help one stranger in need. He ended up

helping to save two lives. Those precious organs were the final magnanimous gift of a young woman who died too soon and had the heart to donate her organs. One patient at Northwestern received her liver and kidney, while her pancreas went to another patient at a separate hospital.

The president and CEO of Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network, Kevin Smunt, put it best: "Here was just a regular Chicagoan"—this Robert King—"who, through the kindness of his heart, helped us honor a donor family who was kind enough to donate the most precious gift anyone can ever give."

At the Chicago Organ Summit's annual gathering, government officials, doctors, advocates, and families of donors gathered last month and honored Robert King for his act of kindness, which saved lives and told his story to the world. The two people who were helped by Robert King's thoughtfulness are among an estimated 113,000 men and women and children in America who are living and waiting and hoping for organs to reach them. Every 10 minutes, another person is added to that list. Every day, sadly, 20 people die waiting for a transplant.

The human body contains eight organs that can be transplanted to save lives—the heart, two lungs, two kidneys, a pancreas, a liver, and intestines. And here is the hope: Each of us can choose to save up to eight lives by becoming an organ donor.

The world needs Good Samaritans. It needs more Robert Kings and more organ donors.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Collins nomination?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, shall be brought to a close?

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following this vote, notwithstanding rule

XXII, the Senate recess until 3:45 p.m. and that at 3:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, the confirmation votes on the Nielson, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, May 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Perdue	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

Bennet

PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 3:45 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:08 p.m., recessed until 3:46 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ALEXANDER).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Tim Scott, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen R. Clark, Sr., of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Casey	Harris
Blumenthal	Coons	Hassan
Booker	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Brown	Duckworth	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Jones
Cardin	Feinstein	Kaine
Carper	Gillibrand	King

Klobuchar
Leahy
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters

Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith

Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53 and the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Carl J. Nichols, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hawley	Portman
Braun	Hoeben	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Cassidy	Inhofe	Romney
Collins	Isakson	Rounds
Cornyn	Johnson	Rubio
Cotton	Jones	Sasse
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Shelby
Daines	Manchin	Sinema
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	McSally	

Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Toomey

Wicker
Young

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Bennet

Booker

Burr

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, Thom Tillis, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Cotton	Hawley
Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeben
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Cruz	Inhofe
Boozman	Daines	Isakson
Braun	Enzi	Johnson
Burr	Ernst	Jones
Capito	Fischer	Kennedy
Cassidy	Gardner	Lankford
Collins	Graham	Lee
Cornyn	Grassley	Manchin

McConnell
McSally
Moran
Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch

Roberts
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby

Sinema
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet

Booker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth D. Bell, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Louisiana.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, this month is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the goal of Mental Health Awareness Month is to recognize the importance for personal well-being, the need for research and education, dispelling the stigmas associated with mental illness, and to improve mental healthcare to ensure that care is available to ensure that the first episode of mental illness is the last.

A goal with Mental Health Awareness Month is the awareness that is necessary for the programs to be implemented so that that young person with their first episode is returned to wholeness, and, again, as I said earlier, the first episode is the last. It recognizes that mental health is a societal issue associated with homelessness, crime, suicide, physical health, and public health issues.

Now, when you speak of mental health, it is a little bit almost like: Oh, my gosh, this is going to be a futile issue. It is so difficult for someone who has serious mental illness to return them to wholeness. It is so difficult that sometimes the individual, their family, and society throws up their hands and says: There is nothing to do, so why try.

You see manifestations of that with the homeless people walking around this city and every city in the United States, many of whom are mentally ill; yet there can be hope.

I called a person back home from Baton Rouge, LA, and asked her for a

story, if you will, of how someone with mental illness issues can be returned to wholeness, so let me tell you about Mary. When you walk with Mary, you can't help but feel happy, happy, happy. That is because Mary radiates the joy of how Capital Area Human Services helped change her life.

Mary says:

I go out and help the community every day. I became successful in my life because of my faith in God and because of the wonderful people at Capital Area Human Services. Today I give back to the community what Capital Area has given to me.

It wasn't always this way. For nearly 20 years before being referred to Capital Area Human Services, Mary lived in group homes and was dependent upon others for basic needs.

I am now quoting Mary:

I weighed 340 pounds. I was sick all the time, was in and out of hospitals. I was barely able to function. I was on so many medicines I could not keep track.

When Mary came to Capital Area Human Services in 2006, she was first helped at the Margaret Dumas Center at the Government Street location. She eventually entered the total health program, and even more dramatic changes began.

Now, let me point out as a physician—I am a doctor—I have learned from folks such as the people I am quoting now that mental health is often associated with physical health problems. So someone who is seriously mentally ill is more likely to die in their 50s than they are in their 80s with untreated hypertension, diabetes, or perhaps, because they are homeless, subject to violence on the streets.

So let me now go back to Mary's story. When she entered the total health program, she lost nearly 100 pounds, no longer needed to take blood pressure medicine, changed her diet, participated in fitness programs, and continued to attend mental health therapy sessions.

Today Mary is a different person. She lives independently in her own apartment, attends Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, walks 2 hours every day to volunteer for various duties at the St. Agnes Catholic Church soup kitchen, where she also sings for the attendees. Mary credits the nuns at St. Agnes for teaching her how to cook, prepare meals, and serve.

Also, Mary is a regular volunteer at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and at the Baton Rouge General Hospital chapel, where she reads Scriptures for some of the services.

Mary said she loves Capital Area Human Services, tells everyone she knows about the people who helped her, particularly Keshia, John, the staff at Margaret Dumas, the staff at the Government Street location, and former total health employees Roy and Ricky.

She says:

I was motivated and didn't give up. It made me happy to do this for myself. I proved that I could do it, and I'm doing it. It's winter, but I'm out there anyway.

Now, I give that kind of personal story to give an example of someone with serious mental illness returned to wholeness. Now, I love that because I always tell folks when I speak that we in Washington, DC, can propose legislation, but unless there is local leadership, nothing good happens.

In 2016, I collaborated with CHRIS MURPHY, as well as EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Tim Murphy in the House, to pass the Mental Health Reform Act. It increased access to mental healthcare for adults and children, it strengthened leadership and accountability for Federal mental health and substance abuse programs, and it established new programs for early intervention. It was called by Senator ALEXANDER the largest reform to our mental health system in decades. I continue to work with President Trump's administration to implement these reforms.

Now, none of this Federal legislation makes a difference unless there is State and local leadership, as was demonstrated in the story which I gave. Last October, I held a mental health summit in Baton Rouge and brought together Federal, State, and local leaders, and the purpose was to discuss proven methods in how to work together to improve the provision of mental health services in both Louisiana and the United States.

There is still important work to do. If we are going to return these folks to wholeness, these folks—our family members, our neighbors, our fellow Americans.

The Mental Health Parity bill became law 10 years ago, but patients still have trouble accessing mental healthcare in the same way they access physical healthcare, caused by, among other things, the lack of mental health providers, prior authorization requirements, and reimbursement rate setting. I am committed to ensuring patients have access to the treatment so they return to wholeness.

We need the story of Mary not to be something so unusual that it is read upon the Senate floor, but something which is so common that we know it to be true. Instead of throwing up our hands—kind of, oh, my gosh, serious mental illness; there is nothing to do—instead we look to hope with a future for someone who could be returned to wholeness so that her first episode of mental illness is her last episode of mental illness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, May is Military Appreciation Month. In light of that, I come to the Senate floor to remind us all just how important our military is to our way of life. One of the blessings of being a U.S. Senator and being on the Armed Services Committee and a past member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have had the privilege to travel, as you have, around the world, visiting with our men and women in uniform.

I have concluded that the best—and I mean the very best—of what we produce here in America is in uniform around the world, worn by our women and men, protecting our interests and defending freedom around the world. There are only six reasons in the Declaration of Independence why 13 Colonies got together in the first place, and one of those was to provide for the common defense.

Today, the world is more dangerous than any time in my lifetime. Today, the United States faces five threats across five domains. This is much more complicated than the world has ever seen. Today, we measure the threats in this manner: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism across five domains.

It used to be air, land, and sea. Unfortunately, today, it is air, land, sea, cyber, and now space. The tragedy, frankly, of our time is we have treated space as a scientific endeavor over the last 30 years, and others who we now consider potential threats have treated it as a military domain.

I grew up in a military town. My father served in Germany during World War II. When World War II was ended, he joined the Reserves and then was called up again in the Korean war. He spent a couple of years in Korea during the Korean war. I have his dog tags today in my office. They serve as a constant reminder of his commitment to defending our ideals and upholding our way of life here in America. It reminds me that every single woman and man in uniform in our services today do the same thing.

Today, I am humbled to represent our men and women in uniform in the United States Armed Services Committee. I take that very seriously, as I know every member does. One of my greatest honors as a member of this committee and a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, as I said, is to travel overseas. The highlight in every one of those trips is not meeting with the head of state or the head of the military or the foreign minister; it was having dinner with people from my home State who were in uniform around the world.

When President Obama was in office, the No. 1 request I heard from heads of state around the world was: We need America to reengage.

At that time, America had withdrawn. We had created a vacuum. People weren't asking us to be the world's policeman. They were asking us to basically reengage and have a seat at the table and lead again. After a decade of withdrawal from the world stage under the prior administration, America is now leading again.

President Trump is reengaged with the rest of the world. He has made it clear that America's interest comes first. When we say America first, it doesn't mean America alone. Today, our allies trust us again, and our adversaries fear us again. President Trump has also taken action to rebuild

our military after it was gutted during the prior administration. Under President Obama, spending on the military was cut 25 percent, and we saw the resulting drop in our readiness.

In the last 2 years, we have updated defense spending by \$80 billion a year. As a result, in addition, we have avoided the use of continuing resolutions in each of the last 2 years, thanks to people on both sides of the aisle—Senator LEAHY and Senator SHELBY, who are the ranking member and the chair of the Appropriations Committee—who worked diligently last year and made sure that we got defense funding done before the end of the fiscal year and without a continuing resolution.

Because of that, readiness is on the rise again in the military. Modernization efforts and rebuilding our military are underway, and our men and women in uniform are safer around the world, No. 1, and have the resources they need to carry out their mission.

I am proud of the progress that we have made in just a very short period of time. Just in the last 2 years, our readiness has dramatically improved. However, a continuing resolution of any length for fiscal year 2020 will erode and undo a lot of progress we have made just in readiness over the last couple of years.

I am really very concerned that this is a primary responsibility of ours here in the Senate and, indeed, in Congress, and it is one we have not stood up to in the past. We have got to do better than that this year.

I believe that Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, said it best when he described the impact of continuing resolutions. Since the 1974 Budget Act was put into place, Congress has used 187 continuing resolutions as a release valve to fund the government in a temporary manner.

Let me say that again, since 1974, 45 years, we have used 187 continuing resolutions. Each one of those continuing resolutions is devastating to our military in so many ways that I will get into in just a minute. Continuing resolutions are absolutely devastating to our military, both in readiness and the ability to rebuild our military. It is the most insidious thing Congress can do to our men and women in uniform. Many of us here don't even realize the damage that continuing resolutions do to our military.

I have questioned all three current service Secretaries and their chiefs of staff, both publicly and in private meetings, about the operational impacts of continuing resolutions and funding uncertainty.

Here are some of the responses:

A continuing resolution “would be like a punch in the gut,” according to ADM John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations.

A continuing resolution “would stall our progress on readiness and modernization,” said Gen. Bob Neller, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Heather Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, said that the defense budget se-

quester “did more damage to the United States Air Force and our ability to defend the nation than anything our adversaries have done in the last 10 years—and we did it to ourselves.”

Secretary of the Army Mark Esper said:

Fiscal uncertainty has done a great deal to erode our readiness and hamper our ability to modernize. . . . If we do not modernize the force right now, we risk losing a future conflict against Russia or China. It's just that simple.

Finally, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer said, and this is classic:

Continuing resolutions have cost the Department of the Navy roughly \$4 billion. . . . Since 2011, we have put \$4 billion in a trash can, put lighter fluid on top of it and burned it.

I don't know how to put it more clearly than that.

CRs have a direct and immediate impact across the entire Department of Defense—from training, to readiness, to maintenance, to personnel, and, yes, to contracting.

During a CR, training must be rescheduled, scaled back, or discontinued entirely, which means our warfighters are less prepared for battle and don't have the resources to defend themselves properly when in the heat of battle.

Depot maintenance and weapons development are delayed, resulting in costly delays, less lethality, and higher costs.

Hiring and recruitment are put on pause, leaving critical gaps in workforce skill sets.

We have the development of cyber capability and space capabilities now. We are just ginning up those capabilities, and CRs absolutely devastate these young, developing capabilities.

Change-of-station moves for service members and their families are halted, creating unnecessary turmoil for families. Can you imagine that you have kids, and you are going to be deployed overseas. The timing has to be right to get your kids in schools over there. Well, if a CR happens to occur—and guess what happens around September 30. The end of our fiscal year. If your family is moving around that period of time, it could be held up because of that CR. That is very disconcerting to families already stressed by increased deployments and rapid turnarounds.

The DOD cannot start new contracts or in many cases has to cancel existing ones. That devastates the supply chain. When we look at the supply chain in the military, after the devastating disinvestment of the last administration, one of the things that have to be rebuilt is the supply chain. The consistent funding of the supply chain is critical to the long-term defense of this country, and it is one we have taken for granted and have devastated over the last decade.

Additionally, the Department of Defense has outlined hundreds of critical projects that would be disrupted or even discontinued if a current CR is

used this year. I can think of one right now. A very much in demand helicopter has been under development for the last few years. It is ready to go. It is ready to be sent to the troops in the field. Yet, if we have a CR come September 30, it will be delayed 1 full year.

We cannot allow this any longer. Clearly, CRs create inefficiencies and uncertainty that hurt the bottom line and our ability to fight. These funding disruptions weaken our strategic capability and shake the confidence and foundation of our Nation's industrial base.

Until 2018, the Department of Defense started 13 of the last 17 years under a continuing resolution. Thirteen of the last 17 years, they started their fiscal year under a continuing resolution. Fortunately, for the last 2 years, despite other funding failures of Congress, we did not have to use a CR to fund the military. That has been a major factor in boosting readiness and our reinvestment and recap efforts.

I hate to say it, but I believe we are staring down the barrel of a potential CR on September 30 this year. As we sit here tonight, there are only 25 working days between now and July 31. Why is that important? Because in the month of August, this body, along with the House, goes back to their States, and it is a work period in those States. That means we will not be able to pass appropriations bills here because we will not be here.

If we don't move this appropriations bill and get it passed by the end, I believe, of July, when we come back in September, there will be only 10 working days, legislative working days, and there is no way we are going to get it all funded in that time.

Last year, on July 31, we had only appropriated about 12½ percent of the Federal discretionary budget. We stayed here in August, to the credit of the leadership, Senator MCCONNELL. I believe that because of that, we went from 12½ percent to 75 percent funding, including the Department of Defense, and therefore we were able to avoid a continuing resolution last year, as I have said.

Other people have said that the greatest threat to our national security is our own national debt—General Mattis, Admiral Mullen. There are various other people who have said that who are in a position where they should know. I would add one thing to that that is devastating to our ability to defend this country, and that is the use of continuing resolutions.

When we look at the domain threats and the natural threats that have evolved in the world right now—China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and terrorism—I don't think any of that damages the military, potentially, as much as our inability here to provide consistent funding for our military.

During Military Appreciation Month, I can think of no higher calling than for Congress to work diligently on passing a defense appropriations bill.

First, we have to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which we are working on this week. All the subcommittees are passing their markups this week. We hope to move on that immediately. I believe that will get passed here without much controversy.

I know that leadership right now is talking about moving in a very intense manner, with a critical sense of urgency, to get this Defense appropriations bill done. I applaud those efforts. I want to support it in any way I can.

I call on everybody in this body to be supportive of making sure that we can have, for the third year in a row—this is not a partisan issue; this is about our men and women in uniform. Given that this month is Military Appreciation Month, what better time to face up to this potential and make sure that we don't have a continuing resolution come September 30 of this year. That is the least we can do for our women and men in uniform. And we can fulfill the responsibility our Founders laid out in the Declaration of Independence when they outlined those six reasons why we were coming together, and the No. 1 reason we had at that time was to provide for the security of the United States of America.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, first, before my colleague from Georgia leaves, I want to thank him for his strong statement on the fact that we have to do defense appropriations.

I know that the Presiding Officer certainly knows all about this, given her Active-Duty service on behalf of our Nation.

As he has pointed out, every service has been affected by this. Speaking for the U.S. Marine Corps, part of the Marine Caucus that we have here, and talking with Bob Neller, who is our retiring Commandant—he has pointed out specifically that they don't have enough to do—I mean, we are proud of the Marine Corps. I always say we do more with less, but this time, you can't do more with less and then less and then less, and that is precisely where we are.

I thank the Senator for making an outstanding statement. I join him in this plea on a bipartisan basis to get these appropriations bills done.

Thank you.

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Madam President, I rise today, along with many of my colleagues, in recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month.

We on the Senate Agriculture Committee have worked extensively on mental health issues, fighting for improved mental health services and mental health parity, especially in our rural and smalltown areas. We have made great strides over the years in improving access to mental health services and eliminating the stigma of seeking treatment. However, as we

continue to see violent tragedies around the country resulting from individuals with mental illness, or even solely looking at suicide rates, which continue to increase—let me point out that in Kansas, there were over 500 suicides in 2016 alone. If the figures were available, I am sure that would be increased, especially with the problems we have in farm country, where we are going through a very rough patch—a fifth year of prices below the cost of production. There is a lot of stress out there in farm country. All of this shows me that more can certainly be done to address the deficiencies in our current system.

Kansas has one suicide prevention lifeline crisis center, located in Lawrence, KS. That is to assist people experiencing mental health crises from the entire State. In many of our rural areas, we continue to struggle with providing adequate access to mental health services.

Those facts apply just for those patients who seek out care. Too many times, people struggling with mental health are either unaware that they can seek help, or they are simply unwilling to do so because of the stigma that is often associated with mental illness. That is why we need to take the opportunity not just this month but every day going forward to improve awareness and understanding about mental health.

The same can be said for addiction. On the Agriculture Committee, we are all proud to have played a role in the passage of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act last year to help address the opioid crisis. However, Kansas is still facing significant challenges with meth addiction. We fought the good fight to eliminate meth labs in many of our States, and now the cartels in Mexico have much more virulence—if I can use that term—with regard to meth.

I am currently working on legislation to help extend the reach of important, often lifesaving treatments for addiction to folks in our rural areas. We can improve mental and behavioral well-being while continuing to reduce the stigma associated with seeking out mental health and addiction treatment.

Additionally, having the privilege of being the chairman of the Agriculture Committee and speaking for my ranking member, Senator STABENOW, as well, you have probably heard me say that we have been in a rough patch in farm country over the past several years. That is certainly true. However, those of us who represent farm country can be more reticent to discuss the toll these troubled times take on farmers, ranchers, growers, and their families, who work tirelessly each day to produce the food and fiber for the United States and a troubled and hungry world.

Farmers, ranchers, and growers face highly demanding working conditions on a good day but more especially dur-

ing a time of lower prices. As I have indicated, it is the fifth year of prices being below the cost of production. So we see mitigation payments coming out of the Department of Agriculture.

Historically, there have been efforts made by Congress to address these concerns, including the programs that took place during the 1980s farm crisis—I was in the House of Representatives at that particular time; those were very tough times—and recognition of this issue in the 2008 farm bill.

As we began the 2018 farm bill process, we looked for opportunities to address this pressing issue, and it led to renewal of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Members on both sides of the aisle in the Capitol recognize the importance of a nationwide Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. It provides support for all producers, farmers, ranchers, and their families through partnerships with organizations in their local communities. Local communities are stepping up, but in terms of getting that network applied, that is another story.

This network recognizes the State and local organizations that have been addressing behavioral health concerns for farmers and ranchers and authorizes grants to support the programs that assist those who are in crisis, especially during this month when we are addressing this topic.

We have just heard from the distinguished Senator from Georgia about the need to avoid a CR in terms of a national defense, and that is true, but in this particular case, it is authorized, but it is subject to appropriations.

On this particular issue, to prevent suicides and mental health illness from resulting in a tragedy, not only in our cities, not only in other States, but across our rural and smalltown areas, it is exceedingly important that we fund this so that we can get the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network up and running and provide the help they really need.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF DANIEL COLLINS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Daniel Collins to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Mr. Collins had been nominated to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit over the objections of Senator HARRIS and myself. Neither Senator HARRIS nor I returned blue slips for Mr. Collins, yet the majority moved forward with his nomination, disregarding our concerns.

This vote on Mr. Collins follows on the heels of last week's vote on Kenneth Lee, another Ninth Circuit nominee who lacked blue slips from me and Senator HARRIS.

So, once again, we see the majority violating Senate norms and traditions by ignoring home-State Senators, including the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, and stacking the courts with ideologues.

This breakdown in Senate traditions is harmful to all of us, Democrats and Republicans. It is also unnecessary.

As I have highlighted before, Democratic Senators have been willing to work with the White House to find consensus picks for the circuit courts, but that willingness has been rebuffed by the Trump administration and disregarded by the majority.

The majority's decision to once again ignore blue slips is short-sighted. After all, what goes around comes around.

Senator HARRIS and I refused to return blue slips on Mr. Collins for several reasons.

I have used a bipartisan instate screening commission to vet potential nominees to California district and Ninth Circuit seats for my entire career. These are highly respected lawyers from throughout the State, and they have reviewed and recommended nominees from Democratic and Republican administrations.

My instate bipartisan commission raised concerns about Mr. Collins's rigidity, temperament, and history of taking positions in litigation for the purposes of overturning precedent and challenging legal boundaries.

The role of a judge is to be an impartial arbiter, not an advocate and not someone with an agenda, particularly an agenda of overturning precedent.

Based on this, I am concerned that Mr. Collins has not demonstrated and does not embody the characteristics that we expect of all Federal judges.

I also believe that Mr. Collins's record on women's reproductive rights, executive power, civil liberties, and criminal justice matters puts him far outside the judicial mainstream.

For example, Mr. Collins was a strong advocate for the Bush administration's use of military commissions to try enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay. He even went so far as to argue that the President's authority as Commander-in-Chief allowed him to bypass Congress and create these com-

missions without congressional approval.

Mr. Collins also wrote a law review piece in which he argued that *Miranda v. Arizona*, a longstanding Supreme Court precedent that protects the rights of individuals, should be overturned.

For the last decade, Mr. Collins has also defended numerous chemical and energy companies in lawsuits brought by homeowners, Tribes, and local governments. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits have argued that these companies contributed to climate change and its effects, such as increasing the severity of storms and causing sea levels to rise.

In several of these lawsuits, Mr. Collins argued that climate change is not even real. For example, in a case representing Shell Oil Company, Mr. Collins wrote that "climate change allegedly results from the aggregate effects of greenhouse gas emissions from billions of sources around the world accumulating in the global atmosphere over the course of centuries, and thus it cannot be attributed to . . . energy companies."

In addition, in questions for the record, he refused to acknowledge that climate change is real and that human activity contributes to it.

I understand that Mr. Collins was representing clients in these lawsuits, but he was the one who chose which arguments to make, including arguments that climate change is not real. We cannot have a judge on the Ninth Circuit who denies climate change and its impacts.

At his hearing, Mr. Collins was willing to answer questions from Republicans on his personal views, but not answer similar questions from Democrats.

For instance, when asked how he "feel[s] about the First Step Act," Mr. Collins said: "I think that the First Step Act . . . appeared to me to be a balanced approach to reform some of the sentencing provisions which seemed unduly harsh."

But when asked by Senator BLUMENTHAL whether he believed *Brown v. Board of Education* was correctly decided, Mr. Collins refused to answer.

Nominees should not answer Republican questions and evade Democratic ones, especially when it comes to answering questions about *Brown v. Board of Education*, a monumental case whose correctness cannot and should not be questioned and has been answered by previous Republican nominees, including Chief Justice Roberts.

Taken as a whole, I believe Mr. Collins is far outside the legal mainstream.

Given concerns about his temperament and commitment to upholding precedent and given the positions he has taken on executive power, criminal justice, and other matters that could come before the Ninth Circuit, I cannot support Mr. Collins.

I voted against Mr. Collins, and I urged my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, on May 20, 2019, the Senate voted on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 201, Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. Due to travel delays, I missed this vote. However, I oppose confirming this nominee, and I would have voted against cloture if I were present.

TRIBUTE TO KEANON LOWE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today I want to recognize and honor Parkrose High School coach and security guard Keanon Lowe for his heroism during the school day on May 17, 2019.

When Mr. Lowe spotted an armed student in a classroom in the northeast Portland high school, he bravely tackled the student, wrestled away the gun, and held the student until police arrived. Mr. Lowe may have saved the lives of countless students, teachers, and administrators at Parkrose.

In Mr. Lowe's own words the day after the incident, "When I signed up to be a security guard, football and track and field coach for Parkrose High School, I did so to guide and coach young people whose shoes I had once been in. I had no idea that I would one day have to put my life on the line like I did yesterday for my students."

Mr. Lowe is no stranger to the spotlight. Before becoming the football and track coach at Parkrose, Mr. Lowe was a standout football player in Oregon at Jesuit High School and then the University of Oregon, U of O, "Go Ducks!"

As an U of O alumnus, I witnessed Mr. Lowe's standout play both in Autzen Stadium in Eugene and in the 2015 national championship game against the Ohio State University.

All Ducks fans know Mr. Lowe as a champion on the field, and now all of Oregon and the country, know him as a hero off the field.

Mr. Lowe's heroics saved the day on a Friday morning just before noon. Students, teachers, and administrators at Parkrose, as well as their loved ones, are incredibly grateful that Mr. Lowe prevented what could have been a tragedy in my hometown.

Sadly, far too many schools in my State and across America have not been so fortunate in the past few decades. Gun violence in schools has essentially created a "lockdown generation" of students whose happy memories of high school dances, games, plays, and other activities jostle alongside memories of lockdown drills and, in far too many instances, violent gunmen.

Again, in Mr. Lowe's own words, "I'm blessed to be alive and extremely happy that the students are safe. I'm not sure what's next, I haven't had the time to really think about it. But I am sure I want to be a part of the solution to school gun violence."

I am grateful that Mr. Lowe prevented the worst on May 17, 2019, and welcome his commitment to be a teammate in reducing the chances of gun tragedies in every school in America.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today, I would like to honor Keanon Lowe's heroism and bravery in tackling a gunman at Parkrose High School on May 17, 2019. Mr. Lowe is known for being a top wide receiver for University of Oregon's football team and now as a popular coach of football and track and field at Parkrose High School. He also works as a security guard at the school.

On Friday, May 17, a distraught student entered a Parkrose classroom with a shotgun. Already this year, our Nation has watched children die at the hands of their armed classmates, including two young men who sacrificed their lives to stop gunmen and save their fellow students. To prevent such a tragedy, Mr. Lowe, in a tremendous act of courage, tackled the armed student and wrestled away the gun before anyone could be injured.

Mr. Lowe put his life on the line to protect our students. Mr. Lowe has not only guided students on the field, but now he has also protected them in the classroom. He will no doubt be remembered by those students for the rest of their lives as an example of selflessness and courage.

On behalf of all Oregonians, I express our deepest gratitude and admiration to Mr. Lowe, and thank him for his service to Parkrose students, every Parkrose family, and all Oregonians.

HONORING THE FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS OF BUTTE-SILVERBOW COUNTY, MONTANA

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I wish to honor the memory of 18 of Butte, America's finest.

Since 1892, 18 brave police officers have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the people of Butte-Silverbow County, the most of any county in Montana.

These men put the lives of others above their own, rushing into danger to keep their community safe, and paying the ultimate sacrifice as a result.

I want to honor: William F. Jordan; Dennis W. Daly; Frederick Kranbeck; Fred A. Palin; John J. Streb; Joseph A. Freshman; Charles E. Streb; Ivan W. Lincoln; James H. Pace; Bart J. McCarthy; Joseph E. Sage; Batt Arrigoni; Jeremiah J. Murphy; Thomas O'Neill; Nicholas Aleksich; Colin McMillan; Tom Monroe; and David V. Thomas and their families and loved ones who sacrificed so much as well.

May their memories never be forgotten. May all current and future peace officers in Butte-Silver Bow, around Montana, and this Nation return home safe at the end of their watches.

TRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA'S HEROES AND RECOGNIZING THE ALWAYS FREE HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today I am incredibly honored to rise and recognize a group of 23 heroic military veterans who will travel from West Virginia this week to visit our Nation's Capital as part of the 10th Always Free Honor Flight. On the occasion of their visit, in which they will see for the first time the monuments built in their honor, I want to express my utmost gratitude to these special men and women for their extraordinary bravery and patriotism and for their noble sacrifice to help keep our country free.

I have said this time and time again: West Virginia is one of the most patriotic States in this great Nation. With one of our country's highest per capita rates of military servicemembers and veterans, West Virginia is undoubtedly one of our Nation's most patriotic States. According to the Department of Defense, West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the Nation during the Vietnam war, and I am so proud that the Honor Flight will allow these West Virginia veterans to pay homage to their brethren at the Vietnam Wall. The 31 veterans participating in this week's Always Free Honor Flight truly embody the Mountain State's history and contributions to the safeguarding of our American freedoms.

Our special West Virginians visiting this week represent warriors from 23 to 93 years old and have traveled from all parts of our great State, from Beckley to Bluefield, Princeton to Cottageville, and many places in between. In addition to our Mountain State veterans, six veterans from Virginia and one veteran from Florida will be accompanying their West Virginia neighbors on the day-long adventure. Of the patriots attending, one served in World War II, two served in the Korean war, 10 served in the Vietnam war, one in Vietnam and Desert Storm, one served in the Cold war, one served in Desert Storm and the Gulf war, two served in the war in Afghanistan, and many others served between wars.

I would especially like to recognize our World War II veteran who will be on this honor flight—93-year-old Allen K. Walker who now lives in Beckley but is originally from the Mississippi Delta. He joined the Navy in Rosedale, MS, in 1944. He served as a seaman first class stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI. Allen is a member of our Nation's Greatest Generation, and their sacrifices and valor embody American patriotism. They fought in such a pivotal war, in an era that threatened our existence as a Nation. Unfortunately, as the years go by, we are losing so many of our World War II veterans, and we must show them our utmost gratitude each and every day.

As I mentioned, we will also be joined by veterans of the Korean, Vietnam, Cold, and Gulf wars. They engaged in

combat all over the world. They were Humvee mechanics, military police officers, and radio operators.

Two of our proud veterans here today served in the Korean war. One is 86-year-old Corporal Paul Clifford Lathey from Cottageville, WV. He joined the Army in 1953 in Ripley, WV. During his time in Korea, he served in the 15th Infantry, 3rd Division Fox Company, where he treated wounded soldiers in MASH units. Our other Korean war veteran is 90-year-old Sergeant David Shirley Knapp, who was in the Army from 1948–1954 and served as a combat engineer during the Korean war.

Another veteran is Charlie R. Lambert from Iaeger, WV, who served in a variety of roles during the Vietnam war. After he joined the Navy in 1970, he served in a “boots on the ground” role in Thailand, served on the flight deck of the USS *Iwo Jima*, and volunteered to be a member of the Brown Water Navy or the forces that patrol shallow inland waterways, seizing contraband and engaging with the enemy. Another brave West Virginian who served in Vietnam is Sergeant Robert Ortiz, from Premier, WV, who served as an infantryman in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division Americal.

We also have two veterans who served in two wars, both from Virginia. Sergeant Jackie Thornton of Narrows, VA, who served in the Army during both the Vietnam and Desert Storm wars, as the chaplain's assistant, as well as, Sergeant Steven R. Mitchell of Bluefield, VA, who served in the Army in both Operation Desert Shield/Storm and the Gulf war.

I would like to also specifically honor the youngest veteran we have with us today, Sergeant Austin Patrick Coleman of Bluefield, WV. He joined the Marines in Houston, TX, and served his country in Helmand Province Afghanistan as an infantryman, assisting the Afghanistan National Army. Another veteran of the war in Afghanistan here today is Michael “Doc” Atwell of Princeton, WV. Doc served in the Navy at Camp Dwyer in the Helmand Province. He was attached to the 1st Tank Battalion RCT7 as a FMF corpsman.

Showing our appreciation to those who have served is something that we should do each and every day, but today is a special day to pay tribute and thank those who have volunteered to put their lives on the line for our freedoms. The memorials our honor flight participants will visit today serve as an important reminder to us all that our freedoms and liberties come at a steep cost. However, I know our veterans will find special meaning and potentially long-lost emotions when they tour such touching sites.

This week's honor flight and the continued support of our veterans would not be possible without the dedication of so many volunteers and caregivers. I would like to thank Theresa Riggs, the JROTC Cadet from Montcalm High

School, as well as the military spouses and other family members serving as the guardians on this year's honor flight. These guardians have selflessly given their time to travel alongside our veterans all the way from Princeton, WV, to Washington, DC, to share this very special journey with them.

I also commend those in the Always Free Honor Flight Network for their dedication to providing our veterans with such a unique and meaningful experience. Without the diligence and passion Dreama of Denver, president of Always Free Honor Flight Network and owner of Princeton, WV's, Little Buddy Radio, as well as Pam Coulbourne, the coordinator of these flights, many of our veterans would never have the opportunity to travel to Washington and pay homage to the men and women they fought beside. Dreama and Pam launched the Always Free Honor Flight in 2012, and every year, they continue to make this dream a reality for many of our West Virginia veterans.

I would also like to recognize Sergeant First Class Paul Dorsey, vice president of Always Free Honor Flight and official photographer Steve Coleman, who have done a tremendous job of ensuring that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dreama, Pam, and Steve have also dedicated themselves to the Denver Foundation, serving as incredible examples of how individuals can give back to their communities.

I am filled with pride every time I meet the patriots who have served our country, and I am so pleased to welcome West Virginia's most courageous veterans, who are all heroes, to Washington, DC. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in saluting them. They truly inspire us all as we are reminded of their selfless service. It is because of their bravery that all Americans enjoy the greatest liberties and freedoms in the world.

God bless all our servicemembers and veterans, God bless the great State of West Virginia, and God bless the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOEL COURREGES

• Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to Joel Courreges, a Washingtonian, a marine, and commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, upon his passing.

Joel Courreges was a man who never stopped serving his community, his State, and his country. Joel served our Nation as a marine in the Vietnam war, returning with disabilities both visible and invisible. Having seen firsthand how difficult the transition home can be, he made it his mission to smooth the path for his fellow veterans as they returned from service. Joel became the commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5, in

Bremerton, WA. In this role, he not only dedicated countless hours to helping veterans file claims with the VA and making sure they could make their appointments, he even drove them himself if they couldn't get there on their own.

But that wasn't all. As Joel saw what more and more veterans were going through, he realized the system wasn't working. Too many veterans, especially those with PTSD and other wounds of war beneath the surface, were getting caught up in courts that didn't understand their unique needs and weren't prepared or designed to help them get back on their feet. Because of Joel's drive and vision, the Kitsap County Veterans Court was created, with the goal of helping the men and women who sacrificed to defend our freedoms get a hand up when they were most in need.

Having seen Joel's efforts firsthand, I know without a doubt that his dedication to public service lifted countless others, especially veterans who have given our country so much, and helped them lead the fulfilling lives they deserve. I will always be grateful to Joel for his kindness, his generosity of spirit, and his determination to make a difference. My thoughts are with his family and all those who loved him.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FITZ-GERALD

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I wish to recognize David Fitzgerald and congratulate him on his term as the chair of the ESOP Association. David has been committed to advancing the employee ownership model in Vermont and around the country. For the last 2 years, David served as chair of the association, working to promote the interests of employee stock ownership plan, ESOP, companies across the country.

In my State of Vermont, we have seen firsthand the many benefits that employee ownership can bring to businesses and employees. Study after study has shown that employee ownership has been proven to spur employment, increase productivity, grow sales, and raise wages. During the last two recessions, companies with ESOPs were twice as likely to survive the downturn.

David has been a vital ally in the efforts to expand broad-based employee ownership and bolster middle-class jobs in our communities. As chair, David advocated for the ESOP business model and the benefits of worker ownership all across the country. I know many in the employee ownership community are so appreciative of David's energy, motivation, and empowerment. Over the last 2 years, David dedicated much of his time and energy to expanding broad-based employee ownership to help create a sustainable economy that benefits all of us.

In addition to his work as chair of the ESOP Association, David serves as a trustee for the Employee Ownership

Foundation, working to promote employee ownership. He is a leader in the Vermont employee ownership community and has been a crucial ally in our fight to expand employee ownership in our state and throughout the country. As we continue to work together to help the employee ownership model realize its true potential, I know David will continue to be an invaluable partner.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 615. An act to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 753. An act to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1359. An act to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1952. An act to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2116. An act to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2480. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. 1370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1319. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2019-2020 Marketing Year" ((7 CFR Part 985) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1320. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1321. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan effective May 15, 2019 through September 30, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1322. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" ((RIN1902-AF63) (Docket No. RM19-14-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1323. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations and Government Affairs, Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's April 2019 quarterly report to Congress (OSS-2019-0503); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1324. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 annual report relative to the Notifica-

tion and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1325. A communication from the Vice President and Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1326. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority" (RIN0945-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1327. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans Care Agreements (VCAs)" (RIN2900-AQ45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1328. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fireworks Displays, Little Egg Harbor, Beach Haven, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0283)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1329. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Illinois River, Miles 0 to 187, Grafton, IL to Peoria, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1330. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0322)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1331. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0369)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1332. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kanawha River, Charleston, WV" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0358)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1333. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Miles

179 to 184, St. Louis, MO" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0334)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1334. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Annual Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port of Detroit Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Coast Guard Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Safety Zones Update" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1336. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sector Ohio Valley Annual and Recurring Special Local Regulations Update" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1337. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Sail Grand Prix 2019 Race Event; San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-61. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 81

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to \$1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have also tripled, rising from \$27.5 billion in 1993 to \$91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement's new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent

the first or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mexico as a top three trading partner. Canada is Michigan's largest export market, and Mexico is Michigan's third largest export market. NAFTA has also contributed to a 300 percent increase in Michigan's agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and

Whereas, Small and medium-sized enterprises in the United States rely on trade with Canada and Mexico to support and grow their business. Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than 125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

Whereas, Trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic output. However, many of the IP-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated did not exist when the agreement was drafted. This situation has resulted in uneven and weak IP enforcement. Stronger enforcement of IP rights will encourage more foreign direct investment and increase gross domestic product; and

Whereas, The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) creates a 21st Century trade agreement for North America. The renegotiated USMCA has provisions favorable to U.S. autoworkers that would help level the playing field between U.S. and Mexican autoworkers. The updated agreement is also more beneficial to the agricultural sector than NAFTA and will offer a higher degree of certainty and stability to Michigan farmers. The new IP provisions are the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and

Whereas, A seamless transition between NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that none of the benefits in trade accomplished by the integration of the three North American economies will be lost: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-62. A resolution adopted by the Commissioner's Court of Grayson County, Texas, urging the United States Congress to designate the Butterfield Overland Trail as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 151. A bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-41).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1553. A bill to repeal the debt ceiling; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1554. A bill to provide for an automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1555. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1556. A bill to provide that the rule entitled "Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance" shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1557. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1558. A bill to establish a coordinated Federal initiative to accelerate research and development on artificial intelligence for the economic and national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1559. A bill to provide standards relating to airline travel by Federal employees for official business; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1560. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax for improving the safety of fuel systems in emergency medical rotorcraft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1561. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security certain information with respect to unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1562. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obli-

gation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Federal campaigns to detect and report such acts; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1563. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's review and publication of illness and conditions relating to veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1564. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission and certain Federal agencies to carry out a study relating to accounting standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1565. A bill to establish a Corps of Engineers Flood Control Civilian Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1566. A bill to require information and opportunities for registration for voting and absentee ballot requests for members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing deployment overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1567. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1568. A bill to improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1570. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1571. A bill to remove fish and wildlife as an authorized purpose of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System and to make flood control the highest priority of authorized purposes of the System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1572. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1573. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1574. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a lifetime income disclosure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1575. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1576. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain contracts between health insurance plans or issuers and health care providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1578. A bill to protect the privacy of internet users through the establishment of a national Do Not Track system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1579. A bill to require Congress to budget in advance for disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1580. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve consultation by the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse with installations affected by windfarm projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1581. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to institute a 1-year waiting period before medical debt will be reported on a consumer's credit report and to remove paid-off and settled medical debts from credit reports that have been fully paid or settled, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide a timetable for verification of medical debt and to increase the efficiency of credit markets with more perfect information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1582. A bill to establish the White Sands National Park in the State of New Mexico as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1584. A bill to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable for dubious marketing and distribution of opioid products and for their role in creating and exacerbating the opioid epidemic in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 214. A resolution recognizing the history and contributions of Muslims of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 215. A resolution calling for greater religious and political freedoms in Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 216. A resolution recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 217. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as "National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend" and June 2019 as "National Gun Violence Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Con. Res. 18. A concurrent resolution supporting reproductive health care in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 52

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 52, a bill to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a

negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 189

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 189, a bill to protect the privacy of users of social media and other online platforms.

S. 249

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 249, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 277

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 277, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to reduce the ability of the U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement to engage in inappropriate civil immigration enforcement actions that harm unaccompanied alien children and to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied alien children.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 466, a bill to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 513, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency

and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 640, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 814

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to participant votes on the suspension of benefits under multiemployer plans in critical and declining status.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S.

839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to enhance the ability of Federal agencies to deliver relocation management services to the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 972

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 972, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes.

S. 988

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1045

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1045, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to permit nurses to practice in health care facilities with critical shortages of nurses through programs for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1190, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

S. 1235

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1394, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to discontinue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government.

S. 1458

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to establish a scorekeeping rule to ensure that increases in guarantee fees of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac shall not be used to offset provisions that increase the deficit.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes.

S. 1540

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1540, a bill to protect elections for public office by providing financial support and enhanced security for the infrastructure used to carry out such elections, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, supra.

S. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 184, a resolution condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

S. RES. 207

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 207, a resolution congratulating the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and

transgender Senate staff on the 15-year anniversary of the association.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to allow certain expenditures for cybersecurity-related services or assistance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Federal Campaign Cybersecurity Assistance Act of 2019—a bulky name for a bill that attempts to do a simply stated thing: protect our democracy from foreign cyber attacks. This bill allows the national campaign committees to provide much-needed cybersecurity assistance to State political parties, Federal campaign offices' staffs, and Federal candidates' personal accounts and devices.

In 2015 and 2016, hackers working for the Russian government penetrated the networks of the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The hackers also compromised the email account of Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign manager, John Podesta. The Russian government subsequently leaked and weaponized Democratic party and campaign emails in order to influence the outcome of several elections—most publicly, the presidential race between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, but also

U.S. House of Representatives races in Illinois, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Hackers also targeted Republicans during the same period, but were less successful in their efforts.

The impact of Russia's hacking-enabled influence campaign was a surprise to many. However, this was not the first time that a foreign government hacked into the campaign organization of someone running to be President of the United States. Senior officials from the 2008 Obama and McCain presidential campaigns have publicly confirmed that both organizations were compromised by hackers. In an interview with NBC News 2013, Dennis Blair, who served as President Obama's Director of National Intelligence between 2009 and 2010 stated that “Based on everything I know, this was a case of political cyber-espionage by the Chinese government against the two American political parties. They were looking for positions on China, surprises that might be rolled out by campaigns against China.”

In recent years, the Republican National Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and the the National Republican Congressional Committee have all been hacked, as well as the campaigns of Senators GRAHAM and MCCAIN. Both major political parties have suffered hacks, and will undoubtedly continue to be targeted by foreign governments and other sophisticated hackers.

Over the past two years, Congress has turned its attention to several weaknesses in our democracy that were exploited by Russia including the role of social media companies and longstanding flaws in paperless voting machines used in several states. While these issues have yet to be meaningfully addressed, they have, at least, been the subject of oversight hearings and legislative proposals in Congress. In contrast, Congress has yet to hold a single hearing on the vulnerability of political parties and campaigns to hacking by foreign governments, nor has anyone else in Congress introduced legislation to help defend these organizations from cyber attacks.

For the sake of the integrity of the American political process, I introduce this bill today to protect those running for office, and the organizations that support them, from cyber attacks. Russia's hacking and leaking of emails in 2016 is now well documented. Their efforts continue. If you think they aren't working towards the 2020 federal elections as hard as any cub reporter in Iowa, you'd be sadly mistaken. And they are likely NOT alone. Other hostile governments will undoubtedly seek to emulate and improve on Russia's tactics.

Congress has acted in the past to protect those running for office from serious threats. After Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, Congress authorized the Secret Service to protect Presidential and Vice Presi-

dential candidates. In extending Secret Service protection to candidates, Congress recognized that the threats to Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates required professional protection. Congress must now take action to protect candidates for Federal office—and consequently, our democracy—from another serious threat: hacking by foreign governments.

The political parties are best of the available options to provide cybersecurity to campaigns. Politicians are already dependent upon the parties for fundraising, advertising, polling, messaging, and other forms of support. Giving parties the responsibility to provide cybersecurity does not make politicians dependent on help from a new entity. Parties are also responsible to politicians they protect, moreso at least than any other government, corporate, or non-profit entity.

Quite simply, this bill gives the national campaign committees the role of the “IT Department” for state parties, campaigns, and candidates. The committees will be able to provide these entities with securely configured laptops and cellphones, professionally administered email, encrypted messaging, and collaboration software, and if necessary, hire third-party cybersecurity experts to help in the event of a successful hack.

This bill also permits the national parties to provide this assistance with money they raise in their “building fund.” The building fund is one of three supplementary accounts through which Congress permitted the national campaign committees to raise an additional \$100,000 per individual, per year, to pay for the cost of presidential nominating conventions, national party headquarters buildings, and election recounts and other legal battles.

I know that some advocates have serious concerns about the building fund and the other supplementary accounts created by Congress in 2014. I share these concerns, and have long supported bold reforms of our campaign finance system. However, the current Senate is extremely unlikely to pass legislation creating public financing of elections anytime soon, and so while we have the current system, permitting the use of money in the building fund for cybersecurity appears to be the least bad option. Most importantly, this approach does not permit the parties to raise any new funds—it merely permits a new use of money raised through the building fund.

I am not the only one to recognize the severity of the cyber threat aimed at political parties. Earlier this year, the Canadian agency responsible for government cybersecurity, the Communications Security Establishment, issued a lengthy report on threats to elections, which noted that that “Globally, political parties, candidates, and their staff remain attractive targets for cyber threat activity.” Likewise, the Maryland Board of Elections published guidance last week, recognizing

that “Campaigns are a potential cyber target,” and consequently permitted state political parties to provide additional cybersecurity assistance to campaigns.

November 2020 gets closer by the day. Congress cannot wait any longer to protect state parties, campaigns, and the candidates themselves from sophisticated cyber attacks. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to promptly act on this legislation, and to secure our democracy from cyber threats before it is too late.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1583

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE LEAD-BASED PAINT POISONING PREVENTION ACT.

Section 302(a) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6.—

“(A) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘covered housing’—

“(I) means housing receiving Federal assistance described in paragraph (1) that was constructed prior to 1978; and

“(II) does not include—

“(aa) single-family housing covered by an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

“(bb) multi-family housing that—

“(AA) is covered by an application for mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

“(BB) does not receive any other Federal housing assistance.

“(ii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that—

“(I) require the owner of covered housing in which a family with a child of less than 6 years of age will reside or is expected to reside to conduct an initial risk assessment for lead-based paint hazards—

“(aa) in the case of covered housing receiving tenant-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which the family and the

owner submit a request for approval of a tenancy or lease renewal, whichever occurs first;

“(bb) in the case of covered housing receiving public housing assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) or project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), not later than 15 days after the date on which a physical condition inspection occurs; and

“(cc) in the case of covered housing not described in item (aa) or (bb), not later than a date established by the Secretary;

“(II) provide that a visual assessment alone is not sufficient for purposes of complying with subclause (I);

“(III) require that, if lead-based paint hazards are identified by an initial risk assessment conducted under subclause (I), the owner of the covered housing shall—

“(aa) not later than 30 days after the date on which the initial risk assessment is conducted, control the lead-based paint hazards, including achieving clearance in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684), as applicable; and

“(bb) provide notice to all residents in the covered housing affected by the initial risk assessment, and provide notice in the common areas of the covered housing, that lead-based paint hazards were identified and will be controlled within the 30-day period described in item (aa); and

“(IV) provide that there shall be no extension of the 30-day period described in subclause (III)(aa).

“(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—The regulations promulgated under clause (ii) shall provide an exception to the requirement under subclause (I) of such clause for covered housing—

“(I) if the owner of the covered housing submits to the Secretary documentation—

“(aa) that the owner conducted a risk assessment of the covered housing for lead-based paint hazards during the 12-month period preceding the date on which the family is expected to reside in the covered housing; and

“(bb) of any clearance examinations of lead-based paint hazard control work resulting from the risk assessment described in item (aa);

“(II) from which all lead-based paint has been identified and removed and clearance has been achieved in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 402 or 404 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684), as applicable;

“(III)(aa) if lead-based paint hazards are identified in the dwelling unit in the covered housing in which the family will reside or is expected to reside;

“(bb) the dwelling unit is unoccupied;

“(cc) the owner of the covered housing, without any further delay in occupancy or increase in rent, provides the family with another dwelling unit in the covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(dd) the common areas servicing the new dwelling unit have no lead-based paint hazards; and

“(IV) in accordance with any other standard or exception the Secretary deems appropriate based on health-based standards.

“(B) RELOCATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2019, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to provide that a family with a child of less than 6 years of age that occupies a dwelling unit in covered housing in which lead-based paint hazards were identified, but not controlled in accordance with regulations required under clause (ii), may relocate on an emergency basis and without placement on any waitlist, penalty

(including rent payments to be made for that dwelling unit), or lapse in assistance to—

“(i) a dwelling unit that was constructed in 1978 or later; or

“(ii) another dwelling unit in covered housing that has no lead-based paint hazards.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendments made by section 2 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIMS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 214

Whereas the millions of Muslims of the United States, immigrant and native born—

(1) compose 2 percent of the total population of the United States; and

(2) have built a vibrant community of diverse races, ethnicities, viewpoints, and backgrounds;

Whereas many African slaves brought to the Americas, including the American colonies later known as the United States, were Muslim and made innumerable contributions to the founding of the United States;

Whereas Muslims of the United States—

(1) come from a myriad of diverse cultural backgrounds; and

(2) practice their faith according to a variety of different historical schools of thought and traditions within the Sunni and Shi’a interpretations of Islam;

Whereas Muslims of the United States have long served in the Armed Forces and have fought in all major United States conflicts, from the Revolutionary War onward, with more than 5,000 Muslims serving in the Armed Forces as of April 2019;

Whereas many Muslim members of the Armed Forces have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including—

(1) Corporal Kareem Rashad Sultan Khan, who was born in 1987 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2007; and

(2) Captain Humayun Saqib Muazzam Khan, who was born in 1976 and made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in 2004;

Whereas countless Muslims of the United States contribute to the economy and well-being of the United States as—

(1) physicians;

(2) business owners;

(3) laborers;

(4) service workers;

(5) teachers engaging the next generation of people of the United States; and

(6) police officers, firefighters, and first responders saving lives every day; and

Whereas Muslims of the United States have made and continue to make important contributions to the advancement of the United States that are fundamental to the shared values, society, and culture of the United States, including—

(1) military veterans, such as—

(A) Corporal Bampett Muhamed of Virginia, who served in the Revolutionary War;

(B) Yusuf Ben Ali (also known as “Joseph Benhaley”), who served in the Continental Army under George Washington and fought with General Thomas Sumter in South Carolina;

(C) Captain Moses Osman, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was the highest ranking Muslim in that war;

(D) Corporal Sheikh Nazim Abdul-Kariem, who served in the Army during World War II at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge;

(E) Sergeant First Class Mujahid Mohammed, who served in the Army and was held as a prisoner of war during the Korean War;

(F) retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Talib M. Shareef, who now serves as imam at the Nation's Mosque in Washington, DC; and

(G) the countless other Muslims of the United States who served valiantly in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts;

(2) Yarrow Mamout, the freed African-American Muslim slave who later became one of the first shareholders of the Columbia Bank, the second chartered bank in the United States;

(3) Fazlur Rahman Khan, the famed architect and designer who designed the Sears Tower and the John Hancock Center;

(4) Mohammad Salman Hamdani, the New York City Police Department cadet and Emergency Medical Technician who heroically died helping others in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001;

(5) Dr. Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and remote sensing scientist who, from 1967 to 1972, was instrumental in helping the National Aeronautics and Space Administration identify the landing sites on the Moon for the Apollo program, serving as—

(A) Secretary of the Landing Site Selection Committee for the Apollo missions;

(B) Principal Investigator of Visual Observations and Photography; and

(C) Chairman of the Astronaut Training Group of the Apollo Photo Team;

(6) noted academics and researchers, such as—

(A) Dr. Sulayman S. Nyang, professor and former chairman of the African Studies Department at Howard University;

(B) Dr. Intisar A. Rabb, professor of law at Harvard Law School and a director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School;

(C) Asifa Quraishi-Landes, comparative law expert at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

(D) Zareena Grewal, American studies and religious studies scholar at Yale University;

(7) health professionals, such as—

(A) Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health;

(B) Dr. Heather Laird-Johnson, founder, president, and director of the Center for Muslim Mental Health and Islamic Psychology at the University of Southern California; and

(C) Dr. Zehra Siddiqui, who focuses on providing health care for underserved populations, including homeless individuals, immigrants, and individuals without health insurance;

(8) Olympic medalists, such as—

(A) boxer Muhammad Ali;

(B) track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad; and

(C) fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad;

(9) professional athletes, such as—

(A) basketball players Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O'Neal;

(B) football players Muhammad Wilkerson, Ameer Abdullah, and Husain Abdullah; and

(C) 2-time world heavyweight champion Hasim Shariff Rahman;

(10) religious leaders, such as Hajj Malik El Shabazz, also known as "Malcolm X", who was—

(A) an African-American Muslim imam;

(B) a civil rights activist; and

(C) a reformer;

(11) Imam Warith Deen Mohammed (born Wallace D. Muhammad), an African-American Muslim leader and theologian who—

(A) in 1992, was the first Muslim of the United States to deliver the invocation for the Senate;

(B) worked tirelessly to unite diverse Muslim communities; and

(C) is commonly referred to as "America's Imam";

(12) public servants, such as—

(A) Dr. Ahmed Hassan Zewail, who won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and was a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology;

(B) Dr. Robert (Farooq) D. Crane, former Deputy Director of the National Security Council and advisor to President Richard Nixon;

(C) Zalmay Khalilzad, who served as—

(i) the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2003 to 2005;

(ii) the United States Ambassador to Iraq from 2005 to 2007; and

(iii) the United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 2007 to 2009; and

(D) Adam Shakoor, the first Muslim judge in the United States;

(E) Osman Siddique, the first Muslim United States Ambassador; and

(F) Sada Cumber, the first United States Ambassador to the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

(13) elected officials, such as—

(A) Representative André Carson of Indiana;

(B) Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota;

(C) Representative Rashida Tlaib of Michigan;

(D) Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison;

(E) Virginia State Representative Sam Rasoul;

(F) Pennsylvania State Representative Movita Johnson-Harrell; and

(G) local council members, including—

(i) Aisha Wahab of Hayward, California;

(ii) Susan Dabaja of Dearborn, Michigan;

(iii) Shahid Shafi of Southlake, Texas; and

(iv) Basheer Jones of Cleveland, Ohio;

(14) entrepreneurs and business leaders, such as—

(A) Farooq Kathwari, the chairman, chief executive officer, and president of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc.;

(B) business tycoon Shahid Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars football team in the National Football League;

(C) Islamic fashion designer Lisa Vogl, founder of Verona Collection;

(D) philanthropist Zara Mohamed Abdulmajid, also known as "Iman", founder of Iman Cosmetics;

(E) Hamdi Ulukaya, the founder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Chobani Greek Yogurt; and

(F) Dr. Mark Humayun, who co-invented the Argus series retina implants; and

(15) entertainers, such as—

(A) actor and comedian Hasan Minaj;

(B) Mahershala Ali, the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar;

(C) Sam Esmail, the creator of Mr. Robot; and

(D) comedian and actor Maysoon Zayid: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the historic and valuable contributions of the

Muslim community of the United States to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—CALLING FOR GREATER RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS IN CUBA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 215

Whereas the Castro regime has used arbitrary incarcerations, harassment, and intimidation to deny basic freedoms to thousands of Cubans since the Cuban Revolution;

Whereas, in April 2019, a family was sent to prison by authorities in Cuba for homeschooling their children;

Whereas the children were enrolled in a Christian distance school in Honduras;

Whereas the families involved, which included a pastor, cited religious reasons for homeschooling their children;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has a history of arresting individuals who chose to homeschool their children and sentencing them to prison time and hard labor;

Whereas the Government of Cuba's insistence on state-controlled education is a sign of authoritarianism, enabling them to indoctrinate youth with a communist ideology;

Whereas parents have the right to teach their children free from the state indoctrination of an autocratic regime;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom formerly condemned Cuba for actions pertaining to the April 2019 imprisonment of those who homeschool their children;

Whereas the United States has instituted an embargo on Cuba in 1960;

Whereas the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 et seq.) does not permit these sanctions to be lifted until the Castro regime has been deposed and Cuba has legalized political activity and made a commitment to free and fair elections; and

Whereas, despite the 2014 Executive branch decision to normalize relations with Cuba, it is still in the power of Congress to lift an embargo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses solidarity with the people of Cuba in their pursuit of religious freedom;

(2) calls on the Government of Cuba to release all political prisoners, including those who have been imprisoned for homeschooling their children;

(3) calls on the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to grant the Precautionary Measures requested on April 25, 2019;

(4) calls on the Government of Cuba to recognize the right of parents to teach their own children free from state communist indoctrination;

(5) calls on the Government of Cuba to institute democratic reforms, including reforms that guarantee freedom of religion; and

(6) calls for the continued implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AIR FORCE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM CONSTELLATION AND AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUOUS AVAILABILITY, ACCURACY, EFFICIENCY, ROBUSTNESS, RELIABILITY, AND RESILIENCY OF THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM CONSTELLATION

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the Global Positioning System (referred to in this preamble as “GPS”) offers both military and civilian benefits of positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Whereas the GPS constellation is managed and operated by the Air Force and consists of more than 30 satellites operating at an altitude of approximately 12,550 miles above the Earth;

Whereas GPS precision timing allows for accurate record management by major financial institutions, including detailed transaction management for large and small businesses;

Whereas GPS has proven to be an essential tool in facilitating social and economic activity around the world;

Whereas consumers overwhelmingly access GPS using a variety of platforms, such as smartphones and a wireless broadband connection;

Whereas cities leverage GPS applications to support Smart Cities initiatives that will increase service efficiency, resulting in savings in time and money for taxpayers;

Whereas first responders use GPS to enable more timely and accurate disaster response and improve situational awareness and to identify the location of 9-1-1 calls made from wireless phones;

Whereas the safety of the rail systems in the United States is improved by implementing GPS-based positive train control systems;

Whereas GPS-enabled applications and services enhance the independence of individuals with visual impairments;

Whereas marine operations depend on GPS for precise navigation as well as for determining location and measuring speed;

Whereas the land surveying and mapping sector uses GPS to produce data that is more accurate and reliable;

Whereas GPS-based time synchronization assists power and utility companies in providing efficient power transmission and distribution;

Whereas smart grid infrastructure is increasingly reliant on GPS for synchronization and system resilience;

Whereas GPS supports autonomous vehicle development by complementing embedded vehicle sensors to determine precise vehicle location and improving safety;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration relies on GPS to improve all aspects of aviation safety and efficiency, including by providing greater precision and accuracy in all phases of flight;

Whereas GPS is also essential for enabling the Next Generation Air Transportation system;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration relies on GPS to improve aviation safety by synchronizing reporting of hazardous

weather with 45 Terminal Doppler Weather Radars; and

Whereas economic contributions by GPS include the following:

(1) In 2013, GPS provided economic benefits with a mid-range estimated value of approximately \$68,700,000,000 or 0.4 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States.

(2) The Department of Homeland Security identifies GPS as essential to 14 of the 16 industries that are classified as part of the nation's critical infrastructure.

(3) In 2013, GPS-enabled precision agriculture was estimated to save grain farmers 10 to 15 percent in operating costs and purchased inputs and the broad economic benefit of precision agriculture in grain farming was estimated to provide a mid-range benefit of \$13,700,000,000.

(4) In 2013, GPS-enabled surveying was estimated to produce a mid-range economic benefit of \$11,600,000,000.

(5) Globally, 3,600,000,000 Global Navigation Satellite System devices were in use in 2014, 450,000,000 of which were in North America.

(6) In 2012, the Boston Consulting Group estimated that the geospatial services ecosystem, which is supported by GPS, drove \$1,600,000,000,000 in revenues and \$1,400,000,000,000 in cost savings throughout the United States economy.

(7) GPS-enabled internet publishing, broadcasting, and search portals accounted for \$170,781,000,000 in revenue in 2017 and supported over 275,000 jobs in 2017.

(8) GPS enables location-based services that will enhance the over \$568,470,000,000 app economy, supporting an estimated 5,744,481 jobs across the United States in 2018.

(9) GPS has proven to be essential to the foundation of the ridesharing industry accessed on smartphones, valued by one estimate to be over \$61,000,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation;

(2) the valuable contributions made by the Department of Transportation in coordinating interactions with the civil users of the Global Positioning System; and

(3) the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 7 THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEKEND” AND JUNE 2019 AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 217

Whereas, each year in the United States, more than—

(1) 36,000 individuals are killed and 100,000 individuals are injured by gunfire;

(2) 12,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving firearms;

(3) 22,000 individuals commit suicide by using firearms; and

(4) 500 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas, by 1 count, in 2018 in the United States, there were—

(1) 340 mass shooting incidents in which not fewer than 4 people were killed or wounded by gunfire; and

(2) 103 incidents in which a gun was fired in a school or college;

Whereas gun violence typically escalates during the summer months;

Whereas nearly 2,900 children and teens are killed by gun violence every year;

Whereas more than 6,300 people in the United States under the age of 25 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago while standing in a park;

Whereas, on the first weekend of June 2019, to recognize the 22nd birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and wear orange in tribute to—

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas June 2019 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2019 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 7 through June 9, 2019, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend”, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on June 7 through June 9, 2019;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) upholds the constitutional right to privacy, including in health care decisions and the right to access abortion care;

Whereas *Roe v. Wade* demonstrates quality legal reasoning and is consistent with related precedent since it was based on sound legal principles first established in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) and *Eisenstadt v. Baird* (1972), and repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, including in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015);

Whereas the facts that have developed since *Roe v. Wade* was decided reaffirm that people of the United States support the right to choose, that abortion is a medically safe procedure, and that access to reproductive health care provides women with greater economic opportunities;

Whereas the rights established in *Roe v. Wade* have been relied upon in this country for almost 50 years;

Whereas a majority of people of the United States support access to abortion care;

Whereas, while the State of Alabama, the State of Georgia, and other States passed laws in 2019 that clearly seek to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and are unconstitutional; meanwhile in 2018 there were over 60 bills introduced in more than 21 States to protect and expand access to reproductive care;

Whereas low-income individuals and women of color are disproportionately impacted by restricting access to abortion care; and

Whereas when States have enacted laws in violation of *Roe v. Wade*, health clinics close and health care services disappear: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports efforts to—

(1) ensure that all women can access comprehensive, unbiased information and make their own health care decisions;

(2) promote preventive health care services for women;

(3) ensure that all women have access to comprehensive, affordable health care that includes pregnancy-related care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management, family planning services, abortion care, labor and delivery services, and postnatal care; and

(4) improve women's access to reproductive health care, regardless of the State in which they reside.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate

on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOW

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is

authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Deborah Skaggs Speth of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Sheryl B. Vogt of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AIR FORCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 216, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 216) recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, efficiency, robustness, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 216) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Nielsen nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Nielsen, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations, in the order listed, at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this month I join Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa and a bipartisan group of my colleagues to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the millions of foster parents and children in foster care around the country. More importantly, it is a call to action. We simply leave too many children behind.

Poverty should never be the reason children are separated from their parents. There is no dignity in removing children from their mothers or fathers because they don't have adequate housing or affordable childcare or jobs that allow them to take time off when their children get sick.

Right now, child welfare agencies are overwhelmed by the number of children who enter the system, and the addiction crisis just makes it worse. In Ohio, parents' substance abuse is listed as one of the causes for one-third of all children who enter the system. Children who are already in the system stay there longer, especially teenagers. We have to do better than that.

Last year, we passed and the President signed the bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, which is an important first step. It has the potential to change our child welfare system over time. Yet the changes the Family First Prevention Services Act requires ultimately have to be made at the State level. We have to make sure that States have the support they need and that they actually do what the law requires.

That is why, this month, I introduced the Family First Transition and Support Act—to help all States transition to the family first era. It would provide funding for States to recruit and retain quality foster parents who meet the needs of children. Our bill would expand funding for kinship support services, which would help family members who raise children pay for essential needs and services, like childcare, transportation, and other things.

This is especially important with the rise in having other family members raise the children because of the addiction crisis. In Ohio, Arizona, and all over this country, we have seen a big increase in there being grandparents who raise grandchildren, in large part, because the children's parents have had addiction issues or have actually died of overdoses.

The grandparents with the grandchildren face unique challenges and don't often qualify for the same support as foster parents. It means that they are going back to work. It may mean that a 68-year-old grandmother who lives on a pension and thought she was retired has to go back to work in order to raise this child to make enough money or has to take money out of her retirement savings.

Relatives' care is vital to keeping kids safe at home and in their communities. Our bill would provide real funding to get these grandparents and other family members more support. There is no formula here, but most of the time, it is better if grandparents can raise these children rather than send them to foster parents, who are strangers. The grandparents, obviously, know and love the children. It doesn't mean foster parents can't, of course, but so often the grandparents are financially challenged.

I get letters all the time from Ohioans who tell their stories and ask us to support these family members.

A man from Richland County, where I grew up, wrote to me saying:

I ask that family members be given the same financial aid as foster parents. Most of the family members are grandparents or great-grandparents on fixed income with little or no money.

Another woman from the county just south, Knox County, south of Mansfield wrote:

I am a grandmother raising my grandson. He is 15 years old, a great kid, and has been living with me almost all his life. I lost my beautiful daughter to an overdose.

She was raised in a good home, but was affected by this disease for the past 9 years. We loved her and miss her every day.

This letter goes on:

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful [conditions]—

Just think of that. She is raising a grandson when her daughter died of an overdose.

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful circumstances, often don't know what to do.

Thank you so much for getting this program and money to support it on board.

Grandparents do so much, without much help.

Last year we were able to break through the partisanship and get the Family First Act signed into law. This bill is the commonsense next step.

This Foster Care Month, I hope that my colleagues will live up to their talking points about supporting children and families. We hear every day here how much we support children and families. Well, do something about it. Work with us to pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA J. FEUERSTEIN, RETIRED.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE WILLIAM D. QUARLES, JR., RETIRED.

DIANE GUJARATI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOHN GLEESON, RESIGNED.

ERIC ROSS KOMITTEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE ERIC NICHOLAS VITALIANO, RETIRED.

RACHEL P. KOVNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE CAROL BAGLEY AMON, RETIRED.

LEWIS J. LIMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE PAUL A. CROTTY, RETIRED.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE MARY M. LISI, RETIRED.

MARTHA MARIA PACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN W. DARRAH, RETIRED.

MARY M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE AMY J. ST. EVE, ELEVATED.

STEVEN C. SEEGER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JAMES B. ZAGEL, RETIRED.

JOHN L. SINATRA, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM M. SKRETNY, RETIRED.

MARY KAY VYSKOCIL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE LORETTA A. PRESKA, RETIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

JAMES J. HIGGISTON, OF MARYLAND
BOBBY G. RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MELISSA MCINNIS, OF COLORADO
BRITTANY BANTA, OF FLORIDA
CAROLINE CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA
SUSAN HETTEMAN, OF NEW YORK
CARLA MENENDEZ MCANUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TAMARIND MURRIETTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATTHEW POOLE, OF ILLINOIS
GEOFFREY PARISH, OF TEXAS
GARY RAND II, OF MARYLAND
KENNIA SOMERVILLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KAREN BALLARD, OF NEVADA
MARIXELL GARCIA, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

UCHENNA NNAYELUGO AGU, OF VIRGINIA
DONALD R. ALDERMAN, OF WASHINGTON
FOTINI D. ALI, OF NEW YORK
MUSAAD ALLABAN, OF VIRGINIA
SIREE D. ALLERS, OF TEXAS
MARK JOSEPH ANANKA, OF NORTH CAROLINA
ALEXANDRA HILDE ANASTASSOPOULOS, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID R. ANDERSON, OF TEXAS
GEOFFREY S. ANDREWS, OF NEW YORK
MICHAEL C. ANTHONY, OF OHIO
GABRIEL A. ARCE-YEE, OF NEW JERSEY
MERY J. ARCILA, OF FLORIDA
NATALIA ARENAS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
GREGORY RONALD ARSENAULT, OF MARYLAND
ALEJANDRA BAEZ, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ROBERT BERNARD BAKER, OF VIRGINIA
THAD B. BALL, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LINDSAY WADSWORTH BECKS, OF VIRGINIA
ARSHIA BEHNAM, OF CALIFORNIA
CARLSKY BELIZAIRE, OF NEW YORK
JORY APTON BENTLEY, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK T. BERNAL, OF NEW YORK
BARNABAS P. BIRKELAND, OF MINNESOTA
MATTHEW T. BISHOP, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH L. BITTENBENDER, OF NEW YORK
EMAN BLAIR, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM C. BLAKEMAN, OF MARYLAND
TIMOTHY DAVID BOLL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALEJANDRO JAVIER BONILLA, OF VIRGINIA
JONATHAN W. BRANDS, OF VIRGINIA
EVA NICOLE BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
CAROLINE LOUISE BURNS, OF VIRGINIA
JAREK TAYLOR BUSS, OF WYOMING
NATALIE A. CAKE, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID JAMES CALLEN, OF VIRGINIA
LUCAS BIRD CALTRIDER, OF IOWA
YANIQUE JODIE-AN CAMPBELL, OF NEW JERSEY
ROWAN ALEXANDER CANTER, OF TEXAS
EVAN PAUL CARAVELLI, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM JOHN CARBALLO, OF MARYLAND
MICHELLE D. CARTER, OF NEVADA
MICHAEL M. CATLETT, OF VIRGINIA
ABDULLAH A. CHENZAI, OF VIRGINIA
STANLEY ROMAN CHRZANOWSKI, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHIAS FRANKLIN CLARK, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL THOMAS CLARK, OF VIRGINIA
MELISSA MARIE CLUFF, OF VIRGINIA
ZACHARY DAVID COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEFFREY T. COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIEL I. COMBS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DAWN COOPER, OF VIRGINIA
TIFFANY MARIE COX, OF NORTH CAROLINA
BETH A. DALTON, OF VIRGINIA
AFRICA DANGERFIELD, OF VIRGINIA
LUKE W. DAVIS, OF NEW YORK
MEREDITH MORGAN DAVIS, OF OHIO
BLAKE A. DAWGERT, OF TEXAS
BENJAMIN DOWNEY DENTON, OF VIRGINIA
ROY M. DICHARRY III, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW W. DILTS, OF CALIFORNIA
JACOB DOUGLAS DINERMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
VANESSA L. DOHNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
SARAH ELIZABETH DOOLEY, OF VIRGINIA
KATHRYN M. DRENNING, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JASON SCOTT DUPUY, OF VIRGINIA
ALAN W. EATON, OF FLORIDA
LUKE DOUGLAS EDEN, OF VIRGINIA
ALYSSA M. EGO, OF VIRGINIA
VERONICA M. ELKINS, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM B. EVANS, OF ILLINOIS
CANDACE TAMIKA FARVE, OF VIRGINIA
SABRINA C. FECHER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
NICOLE LEIGH FINK, OF VIRGINIA
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MITCHELL J. RITSEMA, OF CONNECTICUT
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MONICA L. SAWYER, OF COLORADO
NICHOLAS J. SESNAK, OF WASHINGTON
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SARAH E. WARDWELL, OF FLORIDA
COLLIN WEBSTER, OF NEVADA
DAVID M. WEILER, OF OREGON
ELIZABETH S. WEISMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KELLEY M. WHITSON, OF MARYLAND
JACOB A. WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA
LYNDSKY K. YOSHINO-SPENCER, OF NEW YORK

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YAMIL Y. ARAB, OF FLORIDA
DAVID ALEX BARTLETT, OF TEXAS
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CAROLINA CHICA, OF NEW JERSEY
JEUNG HWA CHOE, OF WASHINGTON
MICHELLE ELIZABETH CLOUD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KATIE A. COLLINS, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM RAMSAY COVEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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ANDREW DUBINSKY, OF VIRGINIA
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RYAN D. KOENIG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NIKOLINA N. KULIDZAN, OF VIRGINIA
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PETER M. VANDERWALL, OF FLORIDA
JOHN N. WHEELER, OF ALASKA
SANDRA M. ZUNIGA GUZMAN, OF VIRGINIA

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 21, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

DANIEL P. COLLINS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.